

WA-WMEA Executive Board Meeting

Minutes from February 7, 2007

Executive Board Present: Beth Ludeman, Greg Wall, Michelle Daavettila, Nancy Nienhuis, Peg Oberbeck, Kathy Ceel, Angela Bina, Lynn Herbst, Sandy Nass, Julie Stringer, Lynn Malloy, Chad Lehman, LuAnn Livingston, Jeff Sikich

Guest: Linda Weaver, WSC President

Meeting called to order by President Ludeman at 4:09 PM

Minutes from the January 3, 2007 Executive Board Meeting were accepted as printed.

President Ludeman

- Many, many sincere thanks from Beth for all the kind wishes, prayers, thoughtful gifts, and support during her recent convalescence. It truly helped her recovery!
- The strategic planning/ goals that were processed with the RA were placed on the agenda for discussion so the Board can further apprise Beth of the status and we can revisit where we need to go from this point in completing that work.
- The NEA Midwest Leadership Conference in Chicago, January 19-21, was, as usual, an inspirational, motivational, and enriching experience for the WA-WMEA delegates who attended. All four of delegates came back with new knowledge and implementation ideas to put to work for our local members. Michelle Daavettila, Nancy Nienhuis, and Kathy Ceel updated the board about their experience.
- A healthy contingent of local leaders will be attending the WEAC Winter Conference March 2-4 in Milwaukee: Angela Bina, Linda Weaver, Lynn Malloy, Lynn Herbst, Peggy Oberbeck, and Beth. Please advise Beth if anyone was missed, as she will be organizing a dinner for those who are registered.
- Chad Lehman, Sandy Nass, and Beth met with District leadership and WEA Trust representative Beth Stewart to develop a plan to move forward on a provision of the last tentative agreement regarding the health risk assessment required of new members. We will be playing an active role in organizing and encouraging existing members to take advantage of this program, too.
- Beth will be utilizing two professional leave days from the Association bank to attend the NEA Resolutions Committee Winter meeting in Washington, DC February 22-25, having been elected as WEAC's first alternate in Orlando last July. As the attending alternate from Wisconsin, WEAC subsidizes the costs for housing and travel.

WSC President Linda Weaver

- Thank you to all WSC delegates who attended the January RA last month. (and for those who weren't there, you missed a good one). Jina Jonen and Greg Spring from WEAC gave the delegates an outstanding presentation

on **Computer Privacy and Identity Theft**. Timely, informative, concise...just the kind of presentation for which WSC is becoming known.

- And it's still not too late to **run for a delegate chair to WSC**. Contact Linda Weaver or Julie Stringer before Feb. 14th if you want to run for this two-year term.
- Still not too late to register for **Winter Conference, in Milwaukee, on March 2 – 4**. If interested, contact Linda Weaver for more information and scholarship opportunities.
- **Are you a mentor of a teacher who re-certifies through a PDP?** Then you need to attend WSC's upcoming workshop for such mentors on Tuesday Feb. 6th at 4:30 pm at the UEP building. This workshop is free to all members and will greatly enhance your mentoring experience. Pre-register with Anita Wobst at wobsta@weac.org
- Are you a member of a negotiations team? Then you need to be part of **WSC's Coordinated Bargaining Council**. First meeting is on Monday, Feb. 19th at 4:30 pm at the UEP building.
- Reminder to those who attended the **PDP Workshop** in January, **part 2** will be held on Tuesday, **March 13, at 4:30 pm** at the UEP. Get all your PDP questions answered and be well on your way to re-certification. Pre-register with Anita Wobst at wobsta@weac.org
- Those who are elected to the WEAC RA, remember that the **Pre-RA meeting** will be held on **Monday, April 2nd at 6:30 p.m.**

Vice President Michelle Daavettila

- No Report

PR&R Chair-Secondary Peggy Oberbeck

- No Report

PR&R Chair-Elementary Nancy Nienhuis

- Nancy was contacted by Tina about mid-year hiring. The district will send our membership chair the monthly board information about new staff so we are sure to be aware of it. Building Reps should be making a contact with new staff at their buildings.
- Nancy is interested in getting in touch with Building Reps at the elementary level to see how things are going and answer any questions

they may have. Since Nancy is new to the position she thought it would be a way for her to get to know people and buildings district-wide. She'll be contacting Head reps to see if they'd like her to stop by.

- Nancy is working with Sandy Nass and the district regarding 2 employees
- Conferences will need to be made up. Principals will discuss possible make-up dates with their staffs.
- If you are approved for a Master's Program and are interested in receiving units for individual courses, you must complete an individual course approval form for units.

Negotiations Chair Chad Lehman

- Greg Wall, Jeff Sikich, Eden Klug, and Chad attended the SE Bargaining Conference on January 20th. Sessions were held on salary schedule restructuring, PI 34 licensure, retirement language, and health care benefits. They also listened to a speaker from WEA Trust. The sessions were good and we came away with some valuable information.
- Chad reviewed a survey for our members that will be going out at the RA. This survey is designed to gather feedback on health insurance issues prior to the start of bargaining.

Treasurer Greg Wall

- Discussed budget spread sheet handed out to Executive Board Members.

Political Action/Legislative Chair Kathy Ceel

- **State news:**
Governor Doyle's State of the State address strongly stressed his continued commitment to public education. He wants to:
 - promote his "Wisconsin Covenant," which allows 8th graders, who sign an agreement to stay in school, who show citizenship, and who maintain a B average, the opportunity to go to college in Wisconsin and receive a financial package in necessary.
 - have mandatory third year of math and science for high school students.
 - give more access to school breakfast programs by triple the funding for it. Wisconsin ranks 50th in the country in this area.
 - reduce class sizes for K-3rd grades.
- **National news:**
The House of Representatives has passed a NEA supported long-term continuing resolution(CR) for the rest of fiscal year 2007. It provides a \$1 billion increase for education programs. It will:
 - raise the maximum Pell Grant award from \$4,050 to \$4,310. That is the first increase in four years.
 - increase Title I funding by \$125 million to provide some 38,000 students with extra help in math and reading.

- provide \$125 million for the Title I School Improvement Fund
 - increase special education funding under IDEA by \$200 million.
- The Senate will begin debate on this in the coming weeks. **PLEASE** cyberlobby Senator Kohl and Senator Feingold and let them know that we want the House's version passed by the Senate too. *Remember*, when you lobby on NEA, they have a written letter that you can just send to the Senate. It is so easy and so effective! We have people who are listening, let them know what you think.

Membership Chair Angela Bina

- No Report

Public Relations Chair Lynn Herbst

- No Report

Executive Director Sandy Nass

- Passed out handout regarding \$250 income tax educator deduction which showed where to write the deduction on tax forms.
- Talked about WEA Trust Member Benefits plan. A representative from the Trust will meet with the Executive Board Meeting in March to talk about the plan.

Director Chris Morrissey

- No Report (Absent)

Director LuAnn Livingston

- No Report

Director Kathy Popa

- No Report (Absent)
- Deadline for the newsletter is March 15th.

Director Jeff Sikich

- No Report

Parliamentarian/Elections Chair Julie Stringer

- WA-WMEA local elections/nominations process is underway
 - 61 nominations for 52 candidates__
 - 24 seats__
 - 38 nomination notification letters sent Friday February 2, 2006
 - People are beginning to respond to nominations sent out earlier.

Unfinished Business

- Strategic Planning Goals: Reviewed goals from last RA Meeting. Discussed how we should proceed with the goals that were identified.

- New agenda/Procedures: Discussed how the new procedures are working. Beth will send reminders a week ahead of time to remind Executive Board Members to send their reports.
- Spring Recognition/Fundraising: Jeff heard from Jeanne Ricci and she will work with us again. Possible dates are May 11th and May 18th. The rate has been raised for renting the park this year. Need to take a look at fundraising options for our scholarship fund.

New Business

- School Board Elections: Discussed the process for interviewing candidates running for the School Board-usually interviews in the past have been held in March. Kathy Ceel should check with Anita for the interview questions and past schedules for interviewing. Kathy Ceel will set up interviews for either the end of February or the beginning of March. She will solicit volunteers at RA Meeting to participate with interviewing prospective School Board Candidates.
- Health Risk Assessments: Discussed health risk assessments requirement for newly hired employees as of August 2007. Encourage all members to take the health assessment.
 - Wellness: Jeff will speak about the health assessment at the RA Meeting next week. The wellness committee gets money (\$10.00) for each assessment completed. Jeff will talk about the confidentiality issue and encourage people to take the assessment.
 - Newsletter: Members will also be encouraged to take assessment via the newsletter.
- PTA Raffle Item: Greg spoke about our raffle item-gift card from Sentry for \$75.00.
- Greg discussed budget. Greg suggested we could put our money in a CD and get interest on the money in our account. We could use the interest from the CD to apply towards our scholarship fund. Greg would like us to look at this possibility. We will revisit Greg's suggestion at the March Executive Board Meeting.
- Discussed make-up days due to weather cancellations. We are covered for 2 of the dates. The district would like to have students attend on June 14th and have our record day on June 15th. Further discussion ensued. Beth will talk to the superintendent about the make-up dates.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kathy Ceel and seconded by Michelle Daavettila. Motion to adjourn the meeting passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Malloy, Secretary