

## **West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association**

Representative Assembly Meeting

February 9, 2005

Schools Represented: Central H.S., Hale, H.S., West Milwaukee M.S., Franklin, Irving, Jefferson, Lincoln, Longfellow, Madison, Mitchell, Pershing, Walker, Wilson, Adm Bldg.

Executive Board: Herbst, Miller, Probst, Stewart, Ludeman, Wall, Key, Knaflic, Mistele, Geboy-Helfenstein, Lehman, Popa, Westcott, Stringer.

President Lynn Herbst called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

The minutes of the January RA were approved as printed.

### **President's Report: Lynn Herbst**

.Open discussion of units was held on February 2. Ludeman will recap the results and units will be discussed at Labor-Management.

.The use of District computers is a privilege. There are limits on what can be done on school time. Care needs to be taken before information is emailed District-wide. It is necessary to have surveys or other information of this nature pre-approved by the Association before they are circulated District-wide via email. This came following the Association's request last year at a Labor-Management meeting that the District share the content & the intent of any surveys they would be sending out prior to their distribution.

.Mike McNett's presentation at the WSC was informative. Herbst will consolidate information and make it available, possibly on video or PowerPoint.

.WSC is presenting a forum, "Regaining the Progressive Voice in Government and Taxes" on February 15 at 4:15 p.m. If attending, RSVP Anita Wobst. The program help explain the need for active involvement in political concerns due to the relationship between politics and education. An overview of TABOR and how to oppose it will also be included.

.WEAC bargaining goals have been set and are available at [weac.org](http://weac.org). Read about the goals and possible job actions and let Herbst know your reaction to the goals and levels of commitment.

.March 2 is the NEA Read Across America day. Stickers and bookmarks will be distributed. See the NEA website for more information: [nea.org/readacross](http://nea.org/readacross).

.Upcoming School Board Meetings: February 14: Lincoln School; March 14: Central H.S.

### **Vice President: Jill Miller**

.Miller is participating in the School Board candidate interviews.

.Joined Geboy-Helfenstein and others to work on April 8 Poker Tournament.

### **P R & R: Secondary**

.The communications model is not always being used appropriately at the secondary level.

- .Traveling teachers should keep track of mileage and turn in reimbursement forms. Travel time is additional time and NOT part of prep time.
- .Let P R & R know if unit proposals are denied.
- .The Seniority list has been delayed because not all teachers have provided Human Resources with a copy of license renewals.
- .Preliminary nonrenewal letters are out. Early Retirement letters were due to Human Resources by February 1.

**P R & R Elementary: Gary Stewart**

- .Thanked building reps for the great jobs they are doing.
- .Noted that diminished special education support has created some teacher to teacher tension.
- . Do not discuss student/parent/teacher/administration concerns in the school lounge, hall, office or anywhere in the building. Conversations may be overheard.
- .ESL caseloads are growing.
- .Class size can be an issue.

**Negotiations: Beth Ludeman**

- .The Negotiations team appreciated all the unit input it has received.
- .Labor Management minutes will include a summary of the unit discussion.
- .There will not be a traditional survey re: bargaining issues. There may be individual surveys for separate core issues or a joint survey from the District and the Association.

**Treasurer: Greg Wall**

- .Will present proposals for budget needs/changes at the March Executive Board meeting. Resulting proposals will be presented to members at the March RA.
- .Will locate/distribute a pie graph that shows breakdown by percent of union dues: local, West Suburban Council, WEAC, and NEA .

**Political Action: Laurel Key**

- .Held one School Board candidate interview session and will conduct the second session on February 15. Disappointed that there are no Association members from Middle School or elementary on the interview team. Will bring possible endorsement/s to the Executive Board meeting in March and will then present endorsement/s to the members at the March RA.
- .Attended State Reading Association convention session featuring Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. There were many teachers in the audience who were uninformed about QEO and revenue caps.

**Public Relations: Monique Mistele**

- .Continues to work with Tom Schutz to send positive public relations information to local newspapers.
- .Will send two WEAC booklets to schools for distribution to teachers.
- .The Star published Mistele's letter to the editor re: great parent volunteers in schools.

**Membership: Michelle Knaflic**

.Plans to finish membership information this weekend. Thanked building reps for help in updating building rosters.

**Executive Director: Sandy Nass**

.There are 19 early retirements and some regular retirements.

.Attended Feb. 1 Joint Finance Meeting on TABOR. Despite public testimonials voicing opposition to TABOR, the vote moved TABOR forward.

.Talking points about Governor Doyle's budget proposals related to education are on weac.org.

Superintendent Wachholtz and President Herbst are featured in a video being distributed statewide.

**Directors:**

**Director: Bridget Geboy-Helfenstein**

.Thanked Jill Miller, Korie Wishart, Brian Lossier for assistance in planning the April 8 Poker Tournament. Lossier will be the Tournament Director and people can sign up to help him. More information will be forthcoming.

**Director: Chad Lehman**

.Friends of Education nomination forms are in the Building Rep. packets tonight. The nomination forms are due back to Lehman by March 1 at Longfellow. Past winners are not eligible. The Awards Banquet is April 27 at Hale H.S.

**Director: Kathy Popa**

.The newsletter has a name: The Word. The next deadline is March 4. A copy of the newsletter is on the Association website.

**Director: Laura Westcott**

.The Spring Recognition Party will be held on May 13.

**Parliamentarian and Elections Chair: Julie Stringer**

.Received more than 60 nominations for various positions.

.Ballots and ballot boxes will go out March 4 and must be returned to Stringer at Walker Elementary School by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11.

**Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business: None**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Barbara Rosenthal, Secretary