

West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association

Representative Assembly Meeting:

October 11, 2006

Schools Represented: Central H.S., Hale H.S., FLW Middle School, West Milwaukee Middle School, Franklin, Hoover, Horace Mann, Irving, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Mitchell, Pershing, Walker, Wilson, Administration Building

Executive Board: Beth Ludeman, Linda Weaver, Michelle Daavettila, Greg Wall, Nancy Nienhuis, Peg Oberbeck, Kathy Ceel, Angela Bina, Sandy Nass, Chris Morrissey, LuAnn Livingston, Kathy Popa-Excused, Chad Lehman-Excused, Julie Stringer, Lynn Herbst, Lynn Malloy, Jeff Sikich-Excused

President Beth Ludeman called the meeting to order at 4:13 PM at the UEP Building

The minutes of the September 13, 2006 RA Meeting were approved as printed.

President: Beth Ludeman

- Beth has heard back from a few Head BRs (Mitchell, Mann and Irving) regarding her request for number of members in each building. There is an impact on how many BRs each building sends to the RA as well as how many copies of materials we are sending out. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE give this important information no later than today. This will also help Angela with membership details.
- The position as the WA-WMEA PTA Council representative has not yet been accepted; please notify Beth if interested! It earns .5 unit, and the Council meets the 1st Wednesday of each month during the school year at Parkway
- Beth has an inquiry about PAC dues refund requests. Kathy Ceel will be issuing a statement sometime this month about protocols to be followed. The local dues are \$2.00. There are 3 separate PAC amounts- one for our local, one for our UNISERV and one for NEA
- Beth was notified that West Allis Central's Parent-Teacher Conferences have been scheduled for the same evening as the December RA, 12/13/06. The RA needs to determine under "Action Items" whether they intend to hold the December RA so Beth can respond in one way or another to this potential conflict.
- In order to allow District Administrators to attend events and ceremonies held by the DPI recognizing five WA-WM Schools, the Labor Management Cooperation Committee meeting originally scheduled for October 10th will be held at 4 pm at the Administration Building one week later on October 17th.
- The WEAC Bargaining Goals Committee meets Wednesday, October 25, 7-9 pm at the Sheraton in Madison (dinner at 6 pm), with a follow-up to be scheduled in December. Chad Lehman, WA-WMEA Negotiations Chair, is the West Suburban Council's representative to that Committee.

- Beth has received the information for the Release time grant through WEAC and NEA; she will be preparing a written statement to be presented to the RA so BRs can hold discussions at their building meetings and bring membership impressions and opinions back to the November RA.
- Nominations are being requested for the 2007 NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards. Please consider whether one of our members or a community member may be a good nominee for these prestigious awards.
- A concern has been raised regarding the “Expulsion School” and the obligations teachers have in meeting needs of students assigned to the program. This will be brought forward to Labor Management.
- School Board meetings for October and November and the representative schools for each are as follows:
 - October 23 – Madison Elementary
 - November 13 – Pershing Elementary
 - November 27 – Horace Mann

West Suburban Council President: Linda Weaver

- WEAC & WSC recommend Gov. Doyle for re-election
- Political Action Fest – Monday, 10/23, UEP Building. We need a BIG turnout for this!!! Not limited to only WSC delegates. Flyers promoting this night will be out next week. Jim Sullivan, candidate for State Senate seat #5 will speak to the group for about 10 minutes.
- This is an extremely high stakes election
- Public education under a Green administration would suffer huge losses
- WEAC & WSC also recommend Jim Sullivan for the 5th District State Senate (running against incumbent Tom Reynolds) and Dave Hucke for State House District 14 (running against incumbent Leah Vukmir)
- Evan Brickner, retired teacher from Wauwatosa and past delegate to both WEAC & WSC Boards passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 14; a memorial was held Saturday, 10/7.
- WSC will be partnering with the 3 other uniservs at the UEP to bring more programs to all of our members this year. Watch for upcoming events!

Vice President: Michelle Daavettila

- No Report

P R & R Secondary: Peg Oberbeck

- Check your paychecks and be sure you are receiving the correct salary, unit stipend, and longevity, etc. based on your contract.
- Better communication from the administration of sudden summer job openings is needed.
- The contract currently allows teachers to submit a transfer request for consideration in future job openings. Submitting a request for transfer could result in difficulties for teachers at some schools.
- The contract also requires the district to post openings (paper copy and on the district web site). It does not require any personal communication to current staff regarding an unexpected opening. This places the responsibility on teachers to monitor the job openings during the summer.

- This will be discussed further by the Executive Board with possible referral to Labor Management.
- It would be beneficial if secondary building representatives send Peg a monthly update of issues that they have dealt with in their buildings so she can quickly see any patterns of situations that should be discussed further.

P R & R Elementary: Nancy Nienhuis

- A meeting with Sandy Nass is being planned to clarify movement of specialists within the district
- It is in our best interest to try to address or resolve issues and or concerns before contacting district administrators. We will have best results with our conversations when the process of the communication model has been followed.
- Questions have come up about common planning time and what the expectations are. This will be looked into.

Negotiations: Chad Lehman

- No Report

Treasurer: Greg Wall

- Everyone pays \$724 for their Association dues

Political Action/Legislative Chair: Kathy Ceel

- The rally on Saturday, September 30th had about 150 people turn out to hear Doyle, Falk, Sullivan, etc. The people who were there were rejuvenated.
- The turnout for Gwen Moore was disappointing but what she had to say was so informative. She has a real fire in her! She had a way of making her point, telling bad news, and making you laugh all at the same time. She stressed the need for the re-authorization of ESEA (No Child Left Behind) not to go through because our state will lose another \$60M over the next year. They estimate that special education will lose \$98M over the next 5 years. Right now the federal government is below the authorized levels of allowed spending for ESEA by \$15 Billion!!!! I asked Superintendent Kurt Wachholz how much our district loses from the federal government in a year because of the lack of funding and he got back to me with an amount of \$4-5 Million!! How can we not be outraged when we see all the ways we have cut back and yet the federal government can get away without giving us our approved share of the pie?
- The debate between Jim Sullivan/Tom Reynolds was worth the wait! WOW! Jim Sullivan showed himself to be a polished, sincere, and knowledgeable candidate!! Tom Reynolds seemed confused at times and was unable to articulate some of his ideas clearly. We can't let Jim Sullivan lose!! If you live in the 5th District or just want Reynolds out of office as much as I do, please e-mail me to find out how you can help get Sullivan elected! (fkbcceel@sbcglobal.net)
- Remind everyone of the major canvassing effort for Doyle on Saturday, October 7th at the Milwaukee North Democratic Party Office at 2010 West Capital Drive. This canvassing day is being done throughout the whole state on that day.
- Need anyone who doesn't have their home e-mail updated to please give me their e-mail address so my updates can be sent to you.
- Mark Green was on NPR and was strongly advocating merit pay for teachers!! We need to get involved.

Public Relations: Lynn Herbst

- An article regarding Central Science Teacher Patrick Gains was featured in the WA Star.
- Information about both Central & Hale Homecoming events were sent to the Star.
- Please contact Lynn with any significant events of interest occurring at your school as soon as you become aware of them. As much lead time is needed as possible so that reporters from the WA Star & the Journal-Sentinel have the opportunity to cover them, should you choose to do so.
- Lynn is looking for good things happening in the lives of our teachers, both in and out of the classroom. If you know of something that would be of interest to our members for inclusion in our newsletter, please let Lynn Herbst know.
- If you are aware of a member who has a prolonged illness, please contact Lynn with information so that action may be taken on behalf of our Association.
- Upcoming events: October 26-27: WEAC Convention, Madison and November 12-18: American Education Week: This year's theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, highlights the importance of bringing together educators, school staff, parents, students, and communities in a unified effort to build great public schools. The theme also reflects the NEA's vision of calling upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century. November 15: NEA Education Support Professionals Day: Let those people who provide the additional support to our students know how much you appreciate their hard work and dedication.
- Check out the OnWEAC Savers' Club. As a WEAC member, you can now receive exclusive discounts on everything from hotel rooms to restaurants to vacation packages and retail stores through the OnWEAC Savers' Club. All WEAC members are eligible to receive a free OnWEAC Savers' Club card. Cards are mailed out to members. To enter the OnWEAC Savers' Club locate your card number. Enter that number (except the first four digits '8757' into the box in the top right corner of the WEAC Members Only Home Page. The first time that you enter the Savers' Club, you will be asked to fill out [onlineregistrationform](#). Your computer will remember your profile for future visits to the site, so you won't have to re-register with each visit. When you find an offer that you can't refuse, present your Savers' Club card or card number at the time of purchase to receive your discounts. At times, it may be helpful to identify your card to merchants as an Access card. Your Saver' Club number is located on your Savers' Club card (at left) after "8757". Enter this number into the yellow box on the home page of WEAC's Members Only Web Site. If you do not have a card, you can get one from your UniServ office or by contacting Diana Buchholz in the Madison office at (800) 362-8034, ext. 253 She can also be reached by e-mail at (buchholzd@weac.org)
- Lynn discussed the possibility of having Ads in the Association Newsletter. You would have to be a member to run the Ads. The money we raise would go to the scholarship fund. There would be a set amount for each Ad. If you run an Ad for a second month you would pay half price. Lynn would be willing to take care of organizing the Ads this year. They would be member to member Ads.

Membership: Angela Bina

- THANK YOU to all building representatives who helped in getting the membership information passed out to all members and returned to me promptly! My job is made much easier because of your diligence.
- The final report for our Membership Update is due October 16.
- Please continue to update me with changes in teacher employment status as well as personal information (i.e. address or phone changes, etc.)

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

- No Report

Directors:

Director: Chris Morrissey

- No Report

Director: LuAnn Livingston

- Door prizes were awarded to Pat, Joe and Kerry

Director: Kathy Popa

- Deadline for “theWord” is 10/22/06
- Please remember that this Newsletter is prior to the elections so don’t miss an opportunity in your articles (if possible) to encourage people to vote for those candidates who are interested in promoting public education not destroying it.

Director: Jeff Sikich

- No Report

Parliamentarian and Elections Chair: Julie Stringer

- No Report

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Motion to cancel RA in December made by Westcott, seconded by Bina—motion carried, one objection
- Please distribute fliers for committee involvement. We’d like to see more than just building reps participate in committees.
- Building Rosters—take list, see who’s in building, and identify ten people per BR, and see how you can get them engaged in election process
- If you can work phone bank on October 16, four to eight, e-mail Beth Ludeman
- Beth talked about President Release Time Program Grant and how it would benefit our District. Discussion ensued. A handout was passed out to assist the discussion. Beth will send out a list of what her job expectations include to help members with the decision of moving forward on the Release Time Program Grant.
- Members who have 3 years experience or less will get a \$50 rebate if they attend both days of the convention.
- Laura Westcott had questions about the Labor Management minutes regarding sixth assignments. Laura wondered how this might impact the hiring of new teachers. Laura would like to see the trend on how the District is issuing these sixth assignments. Discussion ensued.
- Laura inquired about the Expulsion Schools.

- Frustration was expressed about the demands put on us during collaborative time. Prep time can be used for collaborative time but it shouldn't be on a weekly basis. Keep PR&R Representatives informed on these issues.
- Discussion occurred about the walk through forms being used. These should not be used as an evaluation. These forms should be left with you in your room. If there is a problem contact your PR& R Representative.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Daavetilla and seconded by Probst. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Malloy, Secretary