

West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association
Representative Assembly Meeting:

February 14, 2007

Schools Represented: Central H.S., Hale H.S., FLW Middle School, Franklin, Hoover, 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, LuAnn Livingston, Kathy Popa, Chad Lehman, Julie Stringer, Lynn Malloy, Jeff Sikich

President Beth Ludeman called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM at the UEP Building

The minutes of the January 10, 2007 RA Meeting were approved as printed.

President: Beth Ludeman

- Beth extended many, many sincere thanks for all the kind wishes, prayers, thoughtful gifts, and support during her recent convalescence. It truly helped her recovery!
- Beth is organizing the strategic planning/ goals processed by the RA last month in order for them to be engineered by the Executive Board in as timely a manner as is possible. We will report at the March RA on the status.
- 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 delegates came back with new knowledge and implementation ideas to put to work for our local members. Michelle Daavettila, Nancy Nienhuis, and Kathy Ceel will tell you all about it for themselves!
- We have a healthy contingent of local leaders who will be attending the WEAC Winter Conference March 2-4 in Milwaukee: Angela Bina, Chad Lehman, Eden Klug, Kathy Ceel, Linda Weaver, Lynn Malloy, Lynn Herbst, Peggy Oberbeck, and Beth Ludeman. There are a number of different workshops that we will collectively be covering, in order to best meet the needs of our membership locally.
- 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.

- Inclement Weather Make-up Days: One day will have to be made up due to snow days. The teacher work day will be on June 15th. The last day for students will be on June 14th. High school graduation dates will remain the same. If you already have plane tickets to leave for a vacation on June 15th you need to contact human resources to get a waiver.
 - **West Suburban Council 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

P R & R Secondary: Peg Oberbeck

- No Report

P R & R Elementary: Nancy Nienhuis

- Nancy was contacted by Tina about mid-year hirings. 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 she 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

Negotiations: Chad Lehman

- Greg Wall, Jeff Sikich, Eden Klug, and Chad Lehman attended the SE Bargaining Conference on January 20th. Sessions were held on salary schedule restructuring, PI 34 licensure, retirement language, health care benefits, and they also listened to a speaker from WEA Trust. They all felt the sessions were good and came away with some valuable information.
- A survey for our members was distributed at the RA which should be distributed to members on February 15th. Surveys should be returned by February 21st. This survey is designed to gather feedback on health insurance issues prior to the start of bargaining.
- *A question related to the desire to dismantle units was posed. Chad responded with doubt that this would be considered.*

Treasurer: Greg Wall

- Budget: *Greg asked for questions regarding this month's report... none were asked.*

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.

- School Board General Election Cycle: *Kathy shared information related to the school board candidates. The interview process for candidates is being considered. (Thursday, March 1, or March 8, 4:30) Volunteers are encouraged to contact Kathy if needed.*

Public Relations: Lynn Herbst

- No Report (Absent)

Membership: Angela Bina

- Please let Angela know when new employees are hired so their names can be added to the membership list. It is important to have our lists current for the upcoming Association elections in March.

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

- Educator's Tax Deduction Information: *Sandy spoke about the \$250 tax deduction for teachers on 2006's tax forms. In the packets given to Building Representatives there is a sheet that members may want to take along when having their taxes done this year.*
- *Trust Advantage Program was spoken about...an initial conversation has been made with the WEA representative who handles this. A presentation will be made at the Executive Board and RA Meeting next month.*

Directors:

Director: Chris Morrissey

- No Report (Absent)

Director: LuAnn Livingston

- Friend of Education Awards: *LuAnn has sent out nomination forms for Friends of Education awards. Forms are due March 1. Lincoln, Hoover, and Walker have submitted nomination forms. A reminder was made that the nominator OR a school representative would be needed to speak about the award recipient.*

Director: Kathy Popa

- The deadline for the next edition of The Word is March 15th.

Director: Jeff Sikich

- Health Risk Assessment and District Wellness Committee: Discussed the negotiated health risk assessment requirement for new employees. We need to encourage all of our members to complete the health risk assessment. Only 63% take the health assessment survey at this time. The district receives money for each completed assessments which is used for wellness programs in the district.

- The Association Spring Recognition Party will be held on May 11th at Greenfield Park. More details will follow.

Parliamentarian and 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
 - Nominations for Local Office Elections: *Julie shared information about our local EA election / positions to be filled. Discussion about time commitment and dates for each vacancy were shared. Building Representatives will be given information about the election process and where/when the ballots will need to be handed in. A reminder was given, that long-term substitutes may NOT vote in elections. Constitutional questions were entertained.*

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- April Representative Assembly Conflict: *Linda Weaver moved to cancel April RA Meeting and Cathi Probst seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Jeff Sikich voiced concern about no contact with Representatives for such a length of time. Motion passed. Two voiced dissent.*

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Todd Beutin and second by Jeff Sikich.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Malloy, Secretary