

West Allis-West Milwaukee Education Association
Representative Assembly Meeting:

January 9, 2008

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, Maureen Marek, Greg Wall, Nancy Nienhuis, Angela Bina, Chris Morrissey, Chad Lehman, Julie Stringer, Lynn Herbst, Lynn Malloy, Jeff Sikich

President Beth Ludeman called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM at the UEP Building

The minutes of the November 14, 2007 RA Meeting were approved as printed.

President: Beth Ludeman

- There are three candidates for the three seats open on the WA-WM Board of Education, which indicates there will not be a primary in February; this type of scenario also often results in the candidates declining to run elaborated campaigns. Historically, this has typically meant that the candidates have not asked for the endorsement or financial backing of our Association.
- Linda Wamboldt, Greg Wall, Lynn Herbst, Nancy Nienhuis and Beth will be representing the WA-WMEA to the NEA Midwest Regional Leadership Conference in Minneapolis January 18-20. West Suburban Council was instrumental in providing three scholarships for registration for our delegation.
- Beth will be co-facilitating an abbreviated "I Can Do It!" training for Initial Educators in South Milwaukee on Monday, January 14th.
- Joan Delaney attended both the Exec Board and RA meetings this week to discuss the District's restructuring plans with the Association. In the interest of honoring Joan's time, an abbreviated business meeting was held first with Joan's presentation beginning at 4:30 pm.
- The Labor Management meeting for January is scheduled during a negotiations session on Thursday, January 17 at 4 pm at the Parkway Recreation Center because it was the most convenient date we could find for the month for committee members; it was also agreed that if there are no issues which arise prior to that date, it would be appropriate to cancel and give the negotiations team additional time.
- Beth discussed the distribution of the Seniority List. It will be posted on the district intranet. Head Building Representatives should print out a copy of the instructions to access the Seniority List. Each member can access this information on their own.

West Suburban Council President: Linda Weaver

- **CALLING ALL WSC DELEGATES!**

Elected WSC delegates will be meeting for their second of three Representative Assemblies on **Wednesday, January 16th, at 4:30** at the Brookfield Office. They'll be treated to an overview of the **2008 Political Landscape** by **Bob Burke**, Government Relations Director at WEAC. Bob will cover upcoming elections including local school board races and their direct impact on our members, the statewide impact on our schools and careers, and the national outlook for NCLB after the presidential election.

All WSC delegates are encouraged to attend this Representative Assembly and are invited to **bring a colleague along** for the presentation. A brief business meeting will follow.

- **RE-CERTIFICATION FOR VETERAN & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS**

There are many good reasons for veteran teachers to re-certify under PI34.

Some teachers can no longer afford to pay for graduate credits.
Some teachers have no additional salary lanes to move into.
Some teachers do not have the time to take classes.
Some teachers want to save the expense of traveling to and parking at university campuses.

These are teachers who should be re-certifying through a PDP. And sure enough, USEFULL now brings those members another great workshop!

PDP Licensure for Veteran and Professional Educators will take place on **Tuesday, January 22nd at 5:00** at the Brookfield Office. Flyers are being distributed this week. Register early, seats fill fast!

- **PDP REVIEWER TRAINING**

We all know that re-certification through PI 34 requires that DPI-trained and approved reviewers verify teacher PDP's. Now all WSC teachers have an opportunity to become a DPI-trained/approved reviewer.

**SAVE THE SATURDAY!!!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

This one day training is open to all professional educators and Pupil Services professionals and is free to WSC members.
Advanced registration will be necessary.
Watch for upcoming details.

Ben Anderson
PTSA Council Representative

- Rick Dekeyser stepped down as President due to personal time constraints, Cindi Barbian is the new President and Jaimie Reyes is the new 1st Vice President. PTA reflections reception was last night, January 8th, in the Hale cafeteria. The founder's day carnival will be Sunday February 17th.

Vice President: Jeff Sikich

- No Report

P R & R Secondary: Peg Oberbeck - Absent

P R & R Elementary: Nancy Nienhuis

- "I Know" - units Survey of members in newsletter and/or district email- what they know about: their position on salary schedule, need for units, deadline for submitting unit documentation, course approval forms, and who to contact with questions. Results of survey may indicate a need for a units workshop or time provided for discussions during inservice or faculty meeting at each building.
- Members need to be informed about the impact their professional, personal and social lives could have on their employment. Discuss during an RA or invite the police liaison to discuss laws. District indicated at Labor Management that an updated teacher handbook will have guidelines.
- Unit Workshop - Please survey the staff in your building on the interest and topics for a future unit workshop.
- Contract non-renewals:
 - The District must notify a probationary employee of the District's intent to non-renew their teaching contract for the following school year or before the last day of January. A building representative may be called into a meeting with the employee at which time the District will give the employee a letter indicating that they are considering issuing a preliminary notice of non-renewal.
 - The District does not need to have just cause for non-renewing probationary employees, but the District must have followed the contractual timelines and evaluation process. Should this happen, please contact Peggy Oberbeck, Nancy Nienhuis, Sandy Nass, or if the others are not available, Beth Ludeman. There are some timelines we must follow in responding to the District regarding the employees right to have a conference with the Superintendent.
 - Post-probationary employees must receive a preliminary notice of non-renewal on or before the last day of February—this year, February 29th. The same procedure should be followed so that the Association can respond as quickly as possible.

Negotiations: Chad Lehman

- The Bargaining Team will continue to meet with the district to work on the 2007-2009 contract. The following are upcoming dates for bargaining: January 17, 25, 26, 29, and 31.
- This year, most of the sessions are being held outside of the school day to reduce the amount of time teachers are out of the classroom during negotiations. We are making steady progress and hope to continue making strides towards an agreement.

Treasurer: Greg Wall

- See the *Word* for information regarding the amount (\$734) you can use for 2007 tax deduction purposes.

Director/Political Action/Legislative Chair: Linda Wamboldt

- No Report -Absent

Public Relations/Community Outreach Chair: Lynn Herbst

- **Monday, January 21 is Martin Luther King Day, and this year marks 40 years since his assassination. Thus, it is especially important to help your students understand the principles upon which Dr. King built his life, his service, and the movement that he championed—the principles of nonviolence. Take the opportunity to discuss what Dr. King stood for with your students.**
- **The entire month of February is designated as Black History Month. The annual African American Read-In on February 3-4 celebrates African American authors, and provides a great opportunity to expose students to black literature. The Negro League Baseball Museum and Kansas State University College of Education offer an e-museum filled with resources for educators. Go to www.coe.ksu.edu/nlbemuseum/.**
- **To all fourth grade teachers: The deadline for entering the WEAC Human Relations Committee's 4th Grade Poster Contest is February 1. The purpose of the contest is to promote the celebration of Native American culture and to address the issue of racism directed at Native Americans. The theme for this year's contest is Mankind and Nature as One. For more information, go to www.weacm.org/Content/2007-08/postercontest2008.pdf**
- **At the February 11 school board meeting, I will be presenting a plaque from the American Cancer Society Relay for Life which was earned by the WAWM Education Association team for money raised in the memory of Central Science Teacher Mark Jones.**
- **By the way, the 2008 Relay for Life will be held on July 18-19 at Nathan Hale. We hope that you will plan to join the team or to walk a few laps with us in honor of those who have triumphed over cancer and in memorial of those who have not.**
- **The time is now to start preparing for Read Across America Day, coming up on Monday, March 3. Visit www.nea.org/readacross for ideas to plan classroom activities, or www.seussville.com for a wide variety of kid-friendly**

activities. We are interested in your classroom and/or schoolwide events. Plan to take digital photos of your RAA events to submit for publication in our Association newsletter, *The Word*.

- If you're an Association Building Rep — or if you're simply interested in learning more about this role — a free email newsletter is offered by the NEA to keep you up-to-date on the latest tips, strategies and resources for building a strong network of educators in your school. Visit www.nea.org/neanow to sign up.
- The 2007-2009 state budget will provide roughly \$525 million more over the next biennium in new general equalization and categorical school aids and tax credits for K-12 education. That aid comes at a critical time when 60% of districts throughout the state are facing declining enrollment. All categorical aid dollars are delivered to school districts outside of the revenue caps. The categorical aid dollars represent a 12% increase (approximately \$137 million total) from the previous budget. Were you aware that the budget also increases from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the annual stipend for nationally certified or master educators who teach in schools in which more than 60% of pupils are eligible for free and reduced-price lunch?
- A new Great Schools media campaign is underway. With the updated message, *Great Schools Benefit Everyone*, new ads are being developed under a campaign theme titled "I Believe." The spirit of the campaign reinforces the shared values identified by WEAC members and voters in recent research efforts. The simplicity of the campaign places a renewed emphasis on the message (our values) and the messenger (our members and public school supporters). Watch for it!

Director/Membership: Angela Bina

- The "You"nion committee is planning a social gathering for Wednesday, Feb. 13 after the RA concludes. Place to be determined - watch your "Did You Know" emails for more information. All Association members are welcome!
- A Coffee Talk/Contract Reading Session is being planned on Thursday February 28th at 4:00 PM to go over our current contract.

Executive Director: Sandy Nass

- No Report – Absent

Director/Events & Activities: Chris Morrissey

- No Report

Director/Professional Development: Maureen Marek

- No Report

Communications/Parliamentarian and Elections Chair: Julie Stringer

- Election 2008 - WAWMEA
January RA Distribution of Nomination Flyers - Wednesday RA - January 9th
Return all nominations by Wednesday January 23rd - Julie Stringer, Walker

School

Nominations will be accepted at the February 13th, 2008 RA if the nominee is present to accept the nomination or has accepted said nomination in writing.

- March
Distribution of Ballots and Directions for Election
I need building rosters from membership chair
Friday, March 7, 2008 Ballots and Ballot Boxes to Building RAs
Friday, March 14, 2008 – All Ballots and Ballot Boxes to Julie Stringer % of (TBD) at **West Milwaukee Middle School** for count by 4:00 PM

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- WA-WMEA Local Elections/Nomination Process-Julie Stringer: Julie referred to the packet of information regarding the election and nominations that was handed out at the RA Meeting. Julie needs the nomination forms back by January 23, 2008 to Walker School.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Angela Bina and seconded by Ann Gerencir.
Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Malloy, Secretary