

LINDEN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Representative Council Minutes

May 15, 2008

I. Call to Order at 4:00 PM: The following units were represented: # 1,2,4,5, 6, 8, 9, 10, McM, Soehl, LHS, LAST, Adm. Bldg., PPS, SP.Subjects, Maint. and Science Res.Ctr.
Absent from the meeting: Media/IT, and Field House

A. Introduction of Buddies: Mary Ann Doney (#2) and Rep Mary Christie Williams; Angel Pachana (LHS) and Rep Maria Cacioppo; Nicole K.Petrin(#2) and Rep Dorothy Hachey; Kristine Mifsud(#8) and Rep Melissa Mazurek. Buddy Angel and Rep Maria received gift certificates to Barnes and Noble.

B. Announcements: The following items were presented to council:

1. LEA Rep Council Agenda -5/15//08
2. LEA Minutes of April 17, 2008
3. UCEA May 13, 2008 meeting report
4. NJEA Legislative Action – Lobby Days – May 19 & June 5 – Trenton
5. Cyberlobbying News – bill S-1607
6. LINCS sneaker sheet

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE POSTED IN EACH BUILDING

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Len Sobel to accept the minutes of Rep Council meeting of April 17, 2008 with a second by Dorothy Hachey. Council passed the motion.

III. Correspondence: Betty Ogureck/Soehl (486-0550 or 486-7799) bettyo47@yahoo.com

The following letters were received: A letter of thanks from the Kiwanis Club of Linden in recognition of our donation to their scholarship fundraiser. An email thank you from Robert Kosciński for the card sent for the loss of his uncle. The following cards were sent: Audra Mastriano,(McM), death of father-in-law; Russ Marchica,(McM), death of grandfather; Monica Mandela,(#10), death of father-in-law; Bev Poskay,(#6), death of aunt; Sharon Marchica,(#6), death of father-in-law; Chris Simpson,(LAST), surgery; Erika Conti,(#2), illness; Bill Mastriano, (#5), death of grandfather; JoAnn Demkowicz,(#5), death of grandmother; Miriam Merced-Evaldi,(Soehl), death of uncle; April Knight,(Soehl), death of aunt; Elizabeth Ogureck,(Soehl), death of brother; Kim McDonald,(Soehl), birth of daughter.

Correspondence via US MAIL is to be sent to the LEA at P.O.Box 3085,

NOT 16 E. Blancke Street.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL SCHOOL #6 OR USE THE LINDEN SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS TO CONTACT CINDY APALINSKI

IV. Treasurer's Report: Sally Stevens

A. Current Balances

Checking:	\$ 85,697.82	Luncheon:	\$ 244.41
Philanthropic:	\$ 8120.96	Money Market:	\$ 37,379.87

V. Standing Committees:

A. Negotiations:

Rich Sullivan - Teachers/Sec/Paras: Last minute corrections are to be made and then contract will be signed and go to print. Reps will distribute contracts in the buildings before the end of the school year. Each member will receive ONLY (1) copy and member must sign for it.

Ed Mack - Custodian/Maintenance – The unit has reached a tentative agreement. It will be signed on 5/16/08 or 5/19/08. LEA is reviewing the salary guide, it will then be sent to the Board for approval.

B. Membership: Betty Ogureck – All Reps are reminded to continue to sign new employees, and to send **name, phone and address changes** to Betty (Soehl). The total number of members as of 5/30/08 is 911. Members may email Betty over the summer with any changes to their status.

C. Legislative/UCEA: Len Sobel – Len distributed minutes to all of the Reps. Please see Reps for copies. Bill S-1607 has new life. If passed it would create a 5-year pilot tax credit voucher program. Please contact your Senator.

D. Newsletter: Joanne Ferrara - A final May/June issue will go out before the end of the school

year.

- E. Grievances:** *Cindy Apalinski* - #7(07-08) in regards to heating-A/C situation at the Academy was filed at Level II. It has been reported that the filters have been changed. #8(07-08) – investigating a situation in regards to improper placement of a member in the teacher/sec/para. unit on the salary guide to his/her detriment. It may be moved to Level III. #9(07-08), investigating long standing practice of accumulating sick time and family leave then applied, ie: sick leave then family leave. There has been an extension filed. In addition, the LEA is investigating a possible grievance with regard to posting concerns.
Reminder to all members that there is a 15 day time limit to submit a grievance.
- F. Philanthropic:** *Kelly Koziol* – Due to concerns with the LEA holding 50/50 raffles, the LEA is submitting an application for a State license to hold raffles.
- G. Superintendent's Liaison:** *JoAnn Hamilton* – Last meeting for this school year will be held within the month of June.
- H. LEA Retirement Luncheon:** Hosted by School # 2. The committee has chosen The Kenilworth Inn for the Luncheon. Flyers will be going out to members soon. The date is Tuesday, June 17, 2008.
- I. Scholarships:** *Margaret Novalany* – The scholarships were awarded at the LHS Awards night on June 2 ,2008.
- J. LPDC:** *Ewa Usowicz* and *Michael D'Amato* – Cindy would like to know if anyone is interested in the committee. *Roger Murphy (LAST)* is attending the Summer Leadership Conference for LPDC.
- K. Web Master:** *Sally Stevens*- Members are requested to use the **LEA Website** for **ALL Local, County and State** info. Many questions can be answered via the Website. The LEA Newsletter has been added to the web page. Building Maintenance Forms will also be found on site. Anyone wishing to submit their email address can do so via the website.

VI. Old Business

- A.** Spring Party – May 9, 2008 at The Cup – The party was a success with 147 members attending. As always , the Baskets were GREAT!
- B.** LEA/LINCS Walkathon – Reminder if going with class that a \$1 donation or canned food is appreciated.
- C.** Summer Leadership Conference – *Renata Marchesi (Soehl)* will be also attending for leadership.
- D.** Non-Tenured Terminations – Timeline MUST be followed. Those receiving a non-renewal letter can request in writing reasons for non-renewal. Those who have been rehired have been instructed to sign contracts from May 27- May 30. Only if they cannot sign during these dates should a letter be sent to the Superintendent accepting employment.
- E. VII. New Business**
- A.** Linden BOE Meeting (April)– Report given by *Cindy*, there are several new employees and a few retirements.
- B.** Open Enrollment – Health Benefit Changes – Information for procedure will be announced at the June meeting.
- C.** Summer Pay Option – STOP calling payroll. Forms will be distributed in June for those interested in this option.
- D.** School Vouchers – *Len Sobel's* report from the UCEA meeting.
- E.** Brown and Brown hotline – As of June 1, 2008 they will no longer be the brokers for our insurance. A new organization/Broker will represent the Board. Brown and Brown will continue to resolve old issues only.
- F.** Ballot Number and ULP's – The vote for the contract was 485 (yes) and 253 (no). The Unfair Labor Practice charges were withdrawn by *Dave Hancock* as per settlement. If any member would like to view the correspondence in full-please contact *Cindy*.

Meeting Adjourned 5:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth A. Ogureck