

LINDEN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Representative Council Minutes

December 18, 2003

I. Call to Order at 3:55 PM: The following units were represented: # 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, Soehl, McM, LHS, LAST, PPS, AA Field, Media/IT and Special Subject Teachers.

A. Introduction of Buddies: Buddy Colleen Nauta (#5) was introduced by rep Cindy Walker. Both received gift certificates to Barnes and Noble.

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

1. Copy of LEA Rep Council Minutes –11/20//03
2. LEA Rep Council Agenda – 12/18//03
3. Oxford Claim Dispute Flyer
4. How To Resolve Health Insurance Problems
5. Oxford Claim Dispute Work Session – 1/13/04
6. NJEA Good Ideas Conference Flyer
7. Legislative & Politiccal Action Conference Flyer
8. NJEA Managing Student Behavior Conference Flyer

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Sue DiBiagio to accept the Rep Council Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2003. A second to the motion was made by Guy Peluso. Council passed the motion.

III. Correspondence: Please send all correspondence to Betty Ogureck at Soehl 486-0550 or 486- 7799.

Email address (bettyo47@yahoo.com) The following cards were received: An acknowledgment to our sympathy card from Fran Cino and family; a thank you note from Kathy Starling; and a thank you letter from Sue Strydesky and Marijane Gutauckis of School #4 for the donation from the Philanthropic Fund toward needy families of School #4 for the Holidays. The following cards have been sent: Tracey Tietchen,(#6), death of father; Gail DePaul,(#5), birth of grandson; Jackie White-Bryant,(#5), death of aunt; Fran Cino,(#4), death of father; Anne Carothers,(#4), surgery; Rose Goldstein,(#6), death of mother-in-law; Kim Terwilliger,(Soehl), death of aunt; Kathy Starling,(Soehl), death of cousin; Margaret Parnes,(#4), illness; Peggy Kegley,(Soehl), death of aunt; Yelena Horre,(#5), death of grandmother; Kate Weber(Scherer),(#8), marriage; and Tamika Peters,(#8), death of uncle.

IV. Treasurer's Report: *Judy Vacca*

A. Current Balances:

Checking:	\$24,530.00	Luncheon:	\$ 754.00
Philanthropic:	\$ 3584.29	Money Market:	\$ 17,173.73

V. Standing Committees:

A. Negotiations: *Guy Peluso*- Teachers/Secretaries/Paras- Guy reported that there will be a follow-up meeting on 1/7/04. The NJEA surveys have not returned from Trenton. Final proposals will be considered when they are sent back to the LEA. Buildings meetings have been held with great success. The Committee "Thanks" all members who attended and gave input. A request has been sent to the Board to set meeting dates, as of now no dates have been set.

Tom Monaco – Custodian/Maintenanc: This unit has completed their proposals and will meet with their unit in January. This unit is also waiting for meeting dates from the Board.

B. Membership: *Betty Ogureck* –Members are reminded to inform Betty with a change of name, address or phone number. Any member that has returned from a LEAVE OF ABSENCE needs to re-apply for membership. NJEA desk calendars are available for members that have not received one. Please contact Betty at Soehl. All members are encouraged to use the NJEA website for additional information.

C. Legislative/UCEA: *Nancy Garafola* –Absent

D. Newsletter: *Chris Hudak* – Check the Newsletter for the **last 4 digits** of your home phone number, **YOU** may have won a prize. The phone number is the one given to the BOARD. Call the office if the number is yours. The October winner did not contact the LEA Office. If there is anything LEA related and you wish to see in the Newsletter, please call or email the office.

E. Grievances: *Cindy Apalinski* –The grievance in concern of members of the custodial unit has

been resolved , with the members receiving vacation time due to them. Grievance 2-03/04 regarding the full day on 12/19/03 has been delivered to Mr. Martino at Level I.

- F. Philanthropic:** *Sally Stevens* – The following members were winners of the Holiday Raffle. The camera was won by Kelly Koziol (Field House), the Food Basket was won by Sophie Kuzma (Academy), a Photo Frame and a \$20 Gift Certificate to Barnes and Noble was won by Teddy Ragavas (Academy), a \$25 Sam Goody Gift Certificate was won by Walter Schweikardt (#2), a Desk Set was won by Lauren Schreck (#6) and a Gift Certificate of \$10 and a Candle was won by Diana Kosiba (#10). Sally reported that there are now 18 more LEA members having contributions donated to the Philanthropic Fund. Those newest contributors received NJEA water bottles. Thanks go out to those who contributed items to the Baskets. Over \$1000 was raised with McManus selling \$211. Any member wishing to contribute to the Philanthropic Fund using payroll deduction is to contact Sally at the Academy. Sally also reported that 4 children from one family were given gifts (items asked for by the children) by way of the “Be An Angel” program.
- G. Superintendent’s Liaison:** *Nancy Gavan* – 1/20/04 is the agenda session at the High School. The January meeting will take place at Mr. Martino’s office on 1/26/04. Please forward your concerns to Nancy at the High School.
- H. LEA Luncheon:** *Media/IT/PPS*- No Report
- I. Scholarships:** *Margaret Novalany* – No report.
- J. LPDC:** *Joann Bolduc* –Mickie Hamilton asked Council to encourage members with any ideas or topics for future workshops to forward that info to either Joann at the High School or to Mickie at #10.
- K. Web Master:** *Sally Stevens* – Members are encouraged to visit the LEA website.
- L. Spring Party** – Cindy will have a meeting in January with the committee. Anyone with any ideas or suggestions are encouraged to send them to Cindy re: Spring Party

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A.** LEA sponsored workshops –The next workshop will be PIP/Rebuttal Writing on 3/10/04 at 3:30 PM at the LEA office.
- B.** Building Liaison – A reminder to all buildings to have a monthly meeting and that a copy of the minutes are to be sent to Cindy. Cindy will contact buildings that have not had meetings or sent in a copy of their minutes.
- C.** Statfeld Vantage (formerly HIGHVIEW PLANNING) – 1-800-844-1169 – Maria Meehan – Any problems with any of your medical/dental coverage please contact Maria. New flyers have been printed with Maria’s name and number. Please see your building rep.
- D.** Common Planning – All buildings – Teacher’s Duty Free Prep is NOT to be used for Common Planning. Buildings in which this is happening are to contact Cindy.
- E.** Tanya Miller/Oxford Rep – Next meeting will be on 1/13/04 at #8, 2:30-4:30 PM.
- F.** Dental Insurance – Any one with Insurance problems is to contact Cindy at the LEA office.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Report from Board Meeting – 12/17/03 – Cindy reported that Kathy Maglione (#9) will be retiring as of June ’04. New employees have been hired and Reps were reminded to invite them to join the membership.
- B.** Executive/Rep Council Monthly Meetings - Diana Affsa questioned the reason for Rep attendance at the Executive monthly meeting. The request for Reps at the Executive meeting started about 4-5 years ago. Any rep with concerns on this issue are encouraged to bring them to Council at the next meeting.
- C.** Resolution of Current Oxford Disputes – See “PINK” information flyer – The deadline for current disputes to be resolved with the help of the LEA is January 30, 2004.
- D.** NJEA Pension Contribution Update – Effective January 1, 2004 Pension contributions will increase from 3% to 5% on gross earnings. For details please refer to NJEA.org.
- E.** Dental Benefit Year – The calendar year is Jan.1 to Dec. 31.
- F.** Planners – Student Planners have been ordered for the 2004-05 school year . The original Elementary Planners have been ordered for grades 2-5 which were more student friendly. If you know that your school was short of planners for this year, please give Cindy a more accurate number for the upcoming year.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth A. Ogureck