

FR Council

December 17, 2009

Union Bank, 4732 Calvert, Lower Level, 4:15 p.m.

**BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT:** Adams, Beattie, Belmont, Cavett, Eastridge, Hartley, Humann, Lakeview, Lincoln High, Lincoln North, Lincoln Northeast, Lincoln Southwest, Lux, McPhee, Morley, Park, Prescott, Pyrtle, Rousseau, Sheridan.

**“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING:** Linda Freye, Maxey, and Karen Krull, Irving, won \$20 gift certificates to Lee’s Booksellers.

**CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS:** Karen Dress wrote a program improvement grant and was awarded it. Kim Boone shared the 5<sup>th</sup> graders entered the Home Builders contest and won \$500 for Arnold Elementary.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jenni called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of November 19, 2009 were approved as printed.

**FAREWELL TO TERESA GREVE:** Teresa was given a certificate of appreciation for her 19 years of service to the Lincoln Education Association. Jim Rea also wished our best to Perry Showers, Horace Mann, who will be student teaching next semester at Lincoln Northeast.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

President’s Update—Jenni Absalon

President’s Report—Jenni discussed the communication she has had with state senators. NCUEA was attended by Jenni and Jim. During the meeting, 151 presidents met with Dennis VanRoekel, NEA President. Jenni reported that she felt very blessed being in Nebraska. The “Race to the Top” campaign will be awarding \$4.5 billion to states with the lowest performing schools. Each district has certain criteria that they must reach in order to receive these awards.

Association and Membership Update—LEA continues to increase our membership. Those who join before December 18, 2009 will receive a discount on their dues for the remainder of this current school year.

**Action Plan**

• **Member Relations**

LEA’s 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be January 29, 2010. FRs were asked to post the flier in their buildings. NEA Read Across America on March 2, 2010—The Cat in the Hat will be available to read in the buildings. All 11 senators have been given a Dr. Seuss book. FRs were encouraged to contact their senators and ask them to read to their classrooms.

• **Communications**

Lincoln Journal Star—Margaret Reist has written an article with data of the salaries of all teachers in the state and teachers in Lincoln. Jenni and Jim met with the Journal Star staff for over two hours. They looked at salary and all extra standards. District--FYI information sent to school board members has also been given to LPS district staff.

- **Community**

Community Conversation—Jenni and Jim have met with TJ McDowell, Malone Center and will be working with Jay Sears, NSEA, to utilize a \$10,000 grant from NEA. Special Olympics—Please register online to volunteer for the Special Olympics next July.

**DRAWING:** Allegra Penington, Brownell, won a \$20 gift certificate to Lee's Booksellers.

UniServ Director Report—Dan Studer

It Ain't Necessarily So. Dan reminded members that teachers have the right to ask for assistance at any step of the appraisal process. No one should ever go into a meeting with their principal without representation. FRs can serve in this role for members. NPCs (Notice of Performance Concern) can happen at any time to anyone. Any member who is going to be placed on an NPC should contact Dan to make sure all steps are followed and expectations are reasonable. If members are told by their principals that they are being placed on NPC1, they should stop the meeting immediately and request the meeting to be postponed until representation from LEA can be present. Dan should be called ASAP.

Executive Director's Report—Jim Rea

Jim reported the good news that Nebraska is spending again. Tax revenue is only down .2% which is not as dire as was predicted. Taina Radenslaben has been hired to replace Teresa Greve. New phone system was installed December 16 at the LEA building. Key feature will be the ability to leave a voice mail message. Negotiation survey was sent to all members. As of today, 792 members have completed it. The window will close at midnight on December 21, 2009.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:** none

**COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Culler—Job description for Instructional Coaches (waiting for a response from the District).

**DRAWING:** Husker Car Wash winners (compliments of Candace Specht and Horace Mann Insurance): Rita Bennett, Southeast High; Ruth Beechley, Maxey Elementary; Pam Olsen, Huntington Elementary; and Paula Buckner, Scott Middle.

**DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching:** Lesa Christiancy, Scott Middle School.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jenni adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Olmstead*

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Secretary-Treasurer