

Board of Directors  
February 1, 2010  
4:30 p.m., LEA Office

**PRESENT:** Jenni Absalon, Marcia Benner, Rita Bennett, Julia Doerr, Linda Freye, John Heineman, Jan Olmstead, Deb Rasmussen, Daniel Ross, Tammy Schafer, Karen Shelton, Resa Wiltse

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dan Studer, Jim Rea, Jan Stamper—LEA-Retired

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jenni called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

**CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS:** Jenni congratulated the Lincoln High girls basketball team on winning their first game. Jenni announced that the winner of the LEAF quilt raffle was LPS Superintendent, Dr. Susan Gourley.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT:** Les Buckley, of Buckley & Sitzman CPA'S, went over the yearly audit of the Association. The audit report did not reveal any areas of concern.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of January 11, 2010 were approved as corrected. (*Reckewey not Reckeway*)

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The December financial report was approved as presented.

**RETIRED LEA REPORT:** Jan Stamper

The LEA-Retired are interested in acknowledging Lee's Booksellers for all they have done for Harvest of Books.

**LEA MESSAGE DEVELOPMENT:** The Board worked on the LEA Message, agreeing to use the phrase "EMPOWERING EDUCATORS TO ENSURE QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS".

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

❖ **President's Update—Jenni Absalon**

- a. **Snow Days**—Jenni and LEA staff have continued to answer questions regarding the snow days and making up time. The plan will be the same if there is another school day cancelled.
- b. **Election**—Jenni encouraged board members to ask members in their building to run for office for delegate position to NSEA or NEA.
- c. **EHA**—The EHA board met last week to discuss rates. They will be meeting again next month where the rates will be announced.
- d. **Wellness**—EHA began an online pilot on wellness. Out of 2,300 members, 50 members had taken the survey. EHA will continue to seek ways to promote wellness among members.  
Kurt Gingrich will speak on the EHA plan February 25 at 4:15 at LSE Jennifer Dorsey Auditorium.
- e. **Community Conversation**—Jenni will be meeting with TJ McDowell on February 3, 2010. There is also a meeting scheduled on February 4, 2010 with Governor Heineman, Mary Campbell, and Thomas Christie.

- f. **I Can Do It**—The next session will be offered March 11 and 17, 2010. It will be taught by Linda Freye and Marcia Benner and run from 4:15 to 7:45 pm.
- g. **Read Across America**—This event is set for March 2, 2010. Jenni announced that some state senators have been scheduled to read in classrooms.

❖ **Western Regional**—*Jan Olmstead, Linda Freye, Deb Rasmussen*

Each person shared information from the recently attended Western Regional Conference in Mesa, Arizona.

❖ **SPED Procom Subcommittee**—*Marcia Benner, Jan Olmstead*

SpEd ProCom met on Wednesday, Jan 20 for three hours. Topics discussed included: The Purpose and History of SpEd ProCom, Themes from the Spring Forums, What is Working, What is Needed to Increase What Works, and Things To Do Right Now. The discussion was open and honest which is a great start.

SpEd ProCom will meet again on Monday, February 22. Members are: Marcia Benner, LEA Vice President/Co-Chair; Jan Olmstead, Lefler/LEA Secretary; Courtney Blume, Hill; Erin Reed, Elliott; Mindy Roberts, School Coordinator; Mary Ells, Special Education Department; Karen Krull, Irving; Mary Phillips, Special Education Department; Susan Safarik, Special Education Department; Kelly Muthersbaugh, Meadow Lane; Cindy Brunken, Special Education Department; Kris Reckewey, Special Education Department; Barb Jacobson, Curriculum/Professional Development Department.

❖ **Appraisal**—*Linda Freye, Karen Shelton*

First semester field testers piloted the forms the committee created, this March they will pilot the Pathways forms. In order to pilot the appraisal system during the 2010/2011 school year the LPS administrators will be trained in the summer. The pilot for the appraisal process will be open to all staff, interested in being involved. The committee will meet again in March. A Memorandum of Understanding on the appraisal pilot was written by LEA staff and presented to LPS staff in November, 2009 but at this time has not been signed by both parties.

❖ **NSEA Board**—*Linda Freye, John Heineman, Marcia Benner, Jenni Absalon*

This past Saturday the NSEA building was rededicated. It was announced that LEA President Jenni Absalon was elected to the budget committee. Information regarding Representative Assembly was shared. Delegates will be staying at The Chateau Bourbon. The delegate fee remained at \$115 fee. Nebraska Night will be on the first night and will involve a river cruise. There will not be a NEA friendship night this year. Delegates will be asked to donate \$180 to the NEA-PAC fund.

❖ **UniServ Director's Report** – *Dan Studer*

Dan reported securing legal services for a member from NSEA and that another member has requested that LEA pursue a legal opinion in regards to their unique situation which LEA is in the process of doing. A member on a Notice of Performance Concern, Step 2, with whom Dan has worked has met all district expectations and has been released from their NPC. Dan reported on other job performance cases with which he is providing assistance or representation for members. Having been contacted by a number of members who expressed concern about the new LPS on-line vacancy process, Dan checked with the District and has been told that the new sign-in process is meant to allow current employees on continuing contract to see all “in house” vacancies once they begin to be posted in a regular fashion, and that principals will not have access to who has consulted the vacancy lists (The latter was the concern most expressed by members who want to be able to check vacancies without necessarily alerting or alarming their current building administrator).

❖ **Executive Director's Report – Jim Rea**

Jim reported that the audit report was positive and that LEA continues to be financially sound in all aspects of the budget. Linda Freye will offer testimony on LB 1006..the kindergarten age bill. Snow removal costs this winter are over-budget. The negotiations team met on January 26 and will meet again on February 23, 2010. The LEA budget work sessions will be held during the March LEA Board meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:**

LEA-PAC: It was moved by Marcia Benner and seconded by Deb Rasmussen to approve the appointment of Marge Keep, Republican, and Jan Olmstead, Democrat, as the LEA-PAC Co-Chairs. Voting Yes: Marcia Benner, Rita Bennett, Julia Doerr, Linda Freye, John Heineman, Jan Olmstead, Deb Rasmussen, Daniel Ross, Tammy Schafer, Karen Shelton, Resa Wiltse and Jenni Absalon Voting No: none

**COMMENTS, CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jenni adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Olmstead*

Jan Olmstead  
Secretary-Treasurer