

Lincoln Education Association
<http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>
Board of Directors
February 18, 2008
4:30 p.m., LEA Office

PRESENT: Jenni Absalon, Marcia Benner, Linda Freye, Matthew Hoffman, Jan Olmstead, Mandy Peterson, Arlene Rea, Tammy Schafer, Karen Shelton, Resa Wiltse

ABSENT: Julia Doerr, Kathy Spahr

*For the next few weeks, Board members may be absent because of Parent-Teacher Conferences.

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Rea. Dan Studer was ill.

CALL TO ORDER: Arlene called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 4, 2008 were approved with additional corrections to the following paragraph starting with “After much discussion, the LEA Board supports the continued efforts of the members of ProCom to discover ways to alleviate the workload challenges that LPS employees are experiencing. As was stated in the Professional Agreement, a January report was to be jointly given to members. Because of the extensive discussion and complexity of the issue, the report will be forthcoming. Members may go to the LEA website to review minutes from past meetings.”

BUDGET REPORT: Marcia
There was no report at this time.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

President’s Report—Arlene Rea

ProCom Update—A sub committee will be meeting on “how the reporting comes from the district to staff.” In an effort to present information more clearly, the communication process and flow will be studied. (One person-one message. All teachers need to get the same information and not have the information go through individual “filters” in each building.)

Membership Update—We are now at 184 new members. Keep up the great work!

Working Conditions Survey Update—As of today, 855 teachers have responded to the survey. LEA has sent out reminders to those members who have not completed the survey. The deadline is February 24, 2008. Now is the time to offer your input—don’t miss the deadline.

Elections Update—Arlene shared the slate for the LEA General Election 2008. Nominations can be taken at the February 21 FR Council meeting. *VOTE* bookmarks have been designed by Matthew Hoffman. This is an important election—please remind members to vote!! LEA’s voice needs to be heard at all levels—local, district, state, and national.

Negotiations Update—The LEA team will meet one week from today on February 25, 2008. They will be looking at interests and doing some study of the salary schedule. The issue of teacher workload is tied to negotiations.

LEA Awards—Presented at FR Council in May, members are encouraged to nominate someone for any of the awards: Elementary, Middle School and High School FR of the Year, Corporate Friend of Education and Special Friend of Education. Please nominate a deserving LEA member or member of the community. More information is available at: <http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>.

UniServ Director’s Report—Dan Studer

Jim gave Dan’s report. Letters of Intent cannot be required until March 15 by state law and need to be returned by March 17 by request of LPS this year regardless of any attempted building imposed time lines to the contrary. Letters can be sent directly to LPSDO if a member prefers.

LEA-R Report—Jan Stamper

Jan was not at this meeting.

Executive Director's Report—Jim Rea

The sprucing up in the lower level is going well. Special thanks to: Marcia Benner, Jenni Absalon, Paul Absalon, Linda Frye, Barb Highstreet, Jack Highstreet, Teresa Greve, Elaine Koch and Arlene Rea.

We are in final discussions with our bank on the new mortgage for the LEA building. We continue to monitor select bills currently in the legislature. Full day debate begins on February 27, 2008. Randy Gordon (LEA) and Andy Meints (LPS), IAQ Co-chairs, will be using our survey technology for a new air quality survey. The first round of data on the LEA budget for 2008-2009 was presented.

LEAF Fundraiser—Jenni Absalon and Linda Freye

At the February 14 Fundraiser meeting, timelines were set and tasks were divided. A new and interesting feature is being added to this year's auction; a raffle for cash. If you have a "connection" with someone "rich and famous," please see if you can find a way to make him/her a part of the fundraiser. Remember 10% of the total profit goes to the NSEA Fund for Children. The LEA Catastrophic Assistance Grants will be reviewed after March 1 and decisions will be made. More information is available on the LEA website: <http://www.lincolneducationassociation.org>.

Capitol District Report—Linda Freye

We will be meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2008 in York, NE at Chances 'R 6:00 p.m. Please let Linda (lfreye@lps.org) know if you would like to attend or if you are bringing a guest.

NSEA Board Report—Marcia Benner

The NSEA Board will meet on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Committees will begin meeting at 8:00 a.m. with the Board meeting at 10:00 a.m. This will be the first meeting of the NSEA Board at the LEA Building.

Budget Discussion—Jim Rea

Jim led the discussion of the budget. Arlene shared some ideas for the governance dollars within the budget while Jim discussed the expenses of maintaining the operation of the LEA. Board members discussed and asked questions. The discussion of the budget will continue at the March 3rd board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ACTION ITEMS: None

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Linda Freye reminded Board members and all other LEA members that there are several LEA members running for NSEA, district, and state offices: Capitol District Executive Committee: Stephanie Nantkes and Tammy Schafer; At-Large NEA-RA: Jennie Absalon, Stephanie Nantkes, and Arlene Rea; and NSEA Board of Directors: Jenni Absalon, John Heineman, and Chelli Olsen. Please remember to vote on all ballots—this is more than an LEA ballot. Show support for LEA members who want to represent you.

Technology Concern—Upgrades for TVs will be needed by February 2009 or be connected to cable. Are all buildings cable-ready? What about equipment to play DVDs? *Response: This item has been forwarded to the district.*

Opening New Building—Karen Shelton asked, "Is it true that principals are restricted to hiring 1/3 of its new staff from one building, 1/3 from inside the district, and 1/3 from outside the district?" *Response: This is partly correct. The principal cannot hire more than 1/3 of the staff from an existing building. The rest of the new staff can be selected from inside the district and from new applicants.*

Insurance—Mandy Peterson asked, “What insurance options will be offered next year?” *Response: EHA will be offering four tiers: employee, employee and spouse, employee and family, employee and children. There will be open enrollment. To view the rates, click onto www.nsea.org. The district contribution has not been negotiated.*

Ken Flowerday’s Article—Jenni Absalon mentioned that Ken wrote a great article for the paper regarding teacher salaries.

Omaha Education Association offered “I Can Do It” training for trainers on February 16 in Omaha. LEA was asked if we wanted to send participants. OEA filled their own slots so LEA did not participate. LEA is planning on conducting our own training for trainers this summer.

Matthew Hoffman announced that he will be participating in the Polar Plunge at Holmes Lake on Saturday, February 13, at 9:00 a.m. The plunge is a fundraiser to raise awareness for Special Olympics.

Mandy Peterson brought up the concern that when buildings require week long trainings, such as BIST, without compensation, it can be a hardship for staff who have to obtain child care during that time. It seems as if BIST has become a district mandate. Why isn’t it compensated? *Response: Jan Olmstead reported that when BIST was brought to Goodrich, a grant paid a stipend to staff. It is a good program and the district is recognizing its worth. LEA will take your concern to the district.*

ADJOURNMENT: Arlene adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Benner

Marcia Benner
LEA Secretary-Treasurer