

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

PRESENT: Jenni Absalon, Marcia Benner, Julia Doerr, Linda Freye, Jan Olmstead, Deb Rasmussen, Daniel Ross, Karen Shelton, Resa Wiltse

ABSENT: John Heineman, Tammy Schafer, and Jan Stamper —LEA—Retired

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Studer and Jim Rea

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

CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS: Jenni reported that her father has started chemo and is handling it well. Linda Freye was featured in the VOICE for speaking in favor of LB 1006. Pat Etherton, LEA-Retired, will be very busy this week wearing the Cat in the Hat for Read across America

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 1 and February 13, 2010, were approved as printed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The January 2010 financial report was approved as presented.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

- a. **Proposed LEA Governance Budget 2010—2011**—The LEA board discussed the governance portion of the 2010—2011 LEA budget. At the March 15th board meeting the business portion of the budget will be discussed. The dues proposal will go to FR Council on March 18, 2010.
- b. **President's Update**—Jenni Absalon
 - **President's Report**—Jenni presented her calendar to the board
 - **Superintendent Search**—Jenni reported on the superintendent candidates and the interview process.
 - **Elections**—Jenni informed the board that Taina was very efficient setting up the election ballot and getting it online.
 - **Board Opening**—Due to Rita Bennett's resignation, there will be an At-Large Board seat opening to be announced at the March 18, 2010, FR Council meeting. The remainder of this term is two years.
 - **EHA**—On March 16, 2010, the EHA Board will set the rates which will be announced on March 18, 2010.
 - **LPS Calendar Survey**—Jenni reported that the LPS calendar survey has been completed and she addressed some of the calendar options. The top priorities from the survey: a) Semester and quarter breaks should be the same for elementary and secondary schools, b) Schedule more than one make-up day in the calendar to replace days missed due to inclement weather, c) School should end either before or just after Memorial Day, and d) Student vacation days should not interrupt instruction just prior to major local, state, or national assessments.
 - **Community Conversation**—Jenni discussed the meeting held at Culler Middle School on February 22, 2010. There were about 25 people in attendance from numerous agencies throughout the community. Jenni will be working again with Thomas Christie and TJ McDowell and she asked if any board member is interested in working with them, to please let her know.

- **“I Can Do It”**—Marcia Benner and Linda Freye will be teaching this class on March 11 and March 17, 2010, from 4:15 to 7:45 pm.
- **Read Across America**—On March 2, 2010, numerous dignitaries will be reading at buildings across the district. Pat Etherton, LEA—Retired, will be wearing the Cat in the Hat costume and participating at activities throughout the week.

c. SpEd ProCom Subcommittee—Marcia Benner, Jan Olmstead

The committee met on February 22, 2010, and discussed issues and solutions to the work load of Special Education teachers. The next meeting will be held on April 2, 2010.

d. Appraisal—Linda Freye, Karen Shelton

The Appraisal committee will be meeting March 8, 2010, at the LEA office. The LEA staff and LPSDO staff are continuing to work on the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the appraisal process.

e. NSEA Board Report—Linda Freye, Marcia Benner, Jenni Absalon

A WebEx meeting was held on Saturday, February 20, 2010. NSEA Capital district meeting was held February 24, 2010. The NSEA Delegate Assembly Pre-Caucus dinner meeting for Capital District is set for April 7, 2010 at Misty’s in Havelock.

f. Director’s Report—Dan Studer

Dan reported working with two members regarding Facebook pages. He reminded the Board that LEA has sent out info to members repeatedly since 2008 and included information at the August FR training on Facebook regarding warnings for teachers and Facebook. Another *LEAdvocate* article will have Facebook as its focus this month. Inappropriate Facebook content can be grounds for termination. Dan reported he is working on a number of job performance cases on behalf of members at both the building and District level. Dan cautioned Board members to be sure to discuss with their members that in an emergency when a substitute is not available, staff can be assigned to cover a class and then must be paid. The *Professional Agreement* states that such mandatory class covering must be done on a rotational basis, however. Dan advised a member whose salary increase had not been implemented six weeks after the member turned in the appropriate paperwork and transcripts; assisted a member with access to the LPS server; advised a member regarding a leave of absence, advised a group of teachers regarding a possible grievance, and advised a member regarding concerns with their principal.

g. Executive Director’s Report—Jim Rea

Two years ago a New Member survey was given, the second phase of this project is the Continuous Member Survey. The random sample survey is complete and will be sent on March 8th. A focus group is also part of the project.

Jim also discussed the following legislative bills and their status:

- LB 1006, Kindergarten bill is now on second reading after a 33—0 vote on the first reading.
- LB 1040, 1041, and 1042, introduced by Senator Fulton: These bills all address CIR issues.

NEW BUSINESS: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

ACTION ITEMS: none

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Daniel Ross attended a Resolution Committee in Washington, D.C last week. He shared information that is on the NEA website regarding the importance of the 2010 Census for education. Members can go to the NEA website for more information. The 2010 Census will run from March 1, 2010, through April 1, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT: Jenni adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Olmstead

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Secretary-Treasurer