

FR Council
January 19, 2012
Union Bank, 4732 Calvert Lower Level 4:15 p.m.

BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT: Arnold, Beattie, Dawes, Hartley, Hill, Kahoa, Lakeview, Lincoln Northeast, Lux, McPhee, Norwood Park, Prescott, Saratoga, Schoo and Zeman.

“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING: Dave Williams, Lincoln Southeast School, won a gift card to Subway, compliments of Candance Specht, Horace Mann Insurance. Kim Rathe, Hill Elementary School, won a \$20 gift card to Indigo Bridge Books, compliments of First Nebraska Educators Credit Union. The following names were drawn for grab bags: Lori Waters, Irving Middle School and Resa Wiltse, Meadow Lane Elementary School.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President Marcia Benner called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m. President Jenni Absalon was attending the NEA Western Leadership Conference.

CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS: Marcia announced that Horace Mann will be holding a retirement seminar at the LEA office on February 1, 2012, at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The December 15, 2011 FR Council minutes were approved as printed.

LEA MESSAGE—Cluster Group Discussion:

Marcia directed FR’s to work in cluster groups on the LEA Message.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

- President’s Report
A copy of the President’s calendar for December/January was given to Faculty Representatives.
- Association Update—Marcia Benner
 - Member Relations
 - Membership—To date, LEA is down 16 members.
 - LEA Elections—FR’s were given a preliminary slate for the LEA General Election. The filing deadline for the LEA Elections is February 13, 2012 and the filing deadline for the NSEA Election is February 19, 2012. Members can file electronically on the LEA website.
 - District Update—discussion continues to be held on leave. FR’s were encouraged to have members call LEA if they received a dock in pay for leave. Computer repairs—LEA is asking members to keep their LPS loaner and back up information rather than pay for repairs at this time.
 - Staffing Conferences have begun in buildings—Staff should talk to their building principal regarding issues they may have on staffing points.
 - LEA Foundation Scholarships and Grants—Marcia announced that there is an application and packet of information in the FR Council resource folder for the LEA Scholarships and Grants.
- Communication
 - First Semester Survey—About 1,000 members completed the survey and a summary will be shared with LPS School Board members.

- Negotiations Survey—Over 1,400 members completed the survey. This is a vital piece for the negotiations team.
 - Workload Survey—The survey was last done in 2006. A random selection of members will be asked to complete a survey this year.
 - Publications—FR’s were thanked for reading the *LEARN/Advocate* and for keeping up with the information being sent out.
- Community
 - Read Across America—Read Across America will take place on March 2, 2012. Marcia announced that this is a great opportunity to invite State Senators/School Board members to come in and read to your class. If you are interested in having “The Cat in the Hat” character come to read in your class, please contact Pat Etherton by e-mail at petherton@windtsream.net.
 - Political Action: Contact Teams—Marcia emphasized the importance of the School Board and Legislative Contact Teams. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call Jenni Absalon and let her know.

DRAWING: Jan Olmstead, Lefler Middle School, won a gift card to Subway, compliments of Candace Specht, Horace Mann Insurance. Tom Meyer, Arnold Elementary School, won a \$20 gift card to Indigo Bridge Books, compliments of First Nebraska Educators Credit Union. Grab Bags were given to Doreen Ainslie, Mickle Middle School and Cheryl McMurtry, Roper Elementary School.

“THE RIGHT STUFF” – Dan Studer, LEA UniServ Director

Dan presented information on student discipline and intervening when a child becomes violent. Dan also stressed to FR’s to remind members that if they are called into their principal’s office and a NPC or plan is being written, they should stop the meeting until they have representation from LEA staff. The new appraisal system states that if a meeting is being held for an NPC, the appraisee should be informed of this before the meeting is called.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT—Jim Rea, LEA Executive Director

Jim shared the following bills of interest to LEA:

LB870—Senator Adams: This bill builds a framework for the continuation of total and complete accountability of public schools.

LB990—Senator Fulton: Pledge of Allegiance cited in public school.

LB839—Senator Council: Penalties for not reporting any sexual misconduct by school employees.

LB797—Senator Avery: Kissing.

LB753—Senator Avery: Tax on soda.

LB 809—90 minutes of evaluation for every employee/every year.

LB933—Senator Ashford: Truancy.

There are numerous bills on child welfare and lobbyists.

Mike Smith and Don Mayhew have announced their candidacy for District 29.

Lillie Larson has announced her candidacy for District 1 State Board of Education.

Jim has been working with LPSDO payroll and payroll deductions that are taken monthly. Members should review their payroll monthly.

Jim reviewed the recent surveys and shared progress on the Workload Survey.

DRAWING: The following names: Krystina Luther, Bryan Community School, and Marge Keep, East High School, were drawn for a grab bag.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Irving Middle School/Announcement:

It was recommended by Irving staff to read the letter to the editor in the Lincoln Journal written by Bob Olmstead, LEA-Retired, in Wednesday, January 18, 2012 edition.

DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching: Jen Yoder, Pershing Elementary School.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice President Marcia Benner adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Olmstead

Jan Olmstead

Secretary-Treasurer