

FR Council

February 18, 2010

Union Bank, 4732 Calvert Lower Level 4:45p.m.

**BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT:** Adams, Arnold, Beattie, Belmont, Cavett, Hill, Humann, Huntington, Kahoa, Kooser, Lakeview, Lincoln East, Lincoln North Star, Lincoln Northeast, Lux, McPhee, Morley, Norwood, Park, Pershing, Prescott, Pyrtle, Roper, Rosseau, Saratoga, and Schoo.

**“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING:** Lori Waters, Irving Middle School, received a \$25 gift card to Red Lobster, Bahama Breezes, or Olive Garden compliments of Candace Specht and Horace Mann Insurance.

**CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS:** Jenni announced that her son, Jacob, arrived in Alaska this morning from Afghanistan.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Jenni called the meeting to order at 4:53 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of January 21, 2010, were approved as printed.

**ELECTION NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR OF FR COUNCIL:** Secretary—Treasurer: none. Senior High Board Seat: none. Elementary Board Seat: none. Delegate Assembly: Jenn Mikkelsen, Arnold; Julie Colby, Everett; Cheri Karr, Clinton; Carole Glenn, Maxey; Kathy Spahr, Culler; Maydene Juhnke, Arnold; Linda Nelson, Irving; Shelley Clayburn, Rousseau; Representative Assembly: none.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

❖ President’s Update—Jenni Absalon

- President’s Report
- Superintendent Search—Jenni discussed the LEA statement regarding the LPS Superintendent Search. She announced that this message will be sent to all LPS Board members. The LPS Board members have asked for input from the LEA members, therefore, please email the Board. Use the information provided to emphasize your position on what we are looking for in a superintendent.
- Association and Membership Update—Jenni announced that 7 new members joined during the membership drive. Members who sponsored new members received \$50 VISA gift cards. Recipients were: David Duncan, Beattie; Jim Danson, Lincoln Southwest; Kathy and Diane Smith, Health Services.
- Action Plan
  - Member Relations
    - LEAF—Jenni announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> and final LEAF fundraiser will be April 16, 2010 in conjunction with NSEA Delegate Assembly. Buildings are encouraged to donate a basket for the foundation.

**DRAWING:** A relaxation basket made by Jenni Absalon was awarded to Bobbi Rezac, Calvert Elementary.

- Scholarships/Grants
- 10 N 10—The next event will be March 12, 2010.
- NEA Read Across America—Senator Coash and others have requested to read in classrooms across the city. Please contact Jenni if you wish to have someone from the community read in your classroom.

- Communications
  - Surveys—Members have asked numerous questions about the Educators Health Alliance on recent LEA surveys. Due to those questions, there will be an EHA information sharing session on Thursday, February 25, 2010, at Lincoln Southeast High School.
  - Website Menu—Michael Giest, Lincoln Southwest, is working on a web menu apparatus that can be put on the LEA website.
- Community
  - Community Conversation—Jenni has met with T.J. McDowell and Thomas Christie regarding the grant. A meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on February 22, 2010, at Culler Middle School. FRs were asked to notify Jenni if they were interested in attending.
  - Harvest of Books, “Planting the Seeds”—During the upcoming Husker Lawn and Leisure show there will be a fundraiser for Harvest of Books. There are enough tickets for all members to enter free.
  - Special Olympics—LEA continues to recruit volunteers for the Special Olympics to be held in Lincoln this July.

**DRAWING:** Diane Smith, Health Services, won a \$20 gift card from Bruce Healey, Lincoln Teacher Credit Union

❖ UniServ Director Report—Dan Studer

- It Ain’t Necessarily So #17—Dan shared information about the upcoming LEA Building Climate Survey. The link is open from today until March 15, 2010. This survey is totally anonymous. Dan asked FRs to encourage their members to complete the survey. He stressed that when 80-90% of the members in a building complete the survey it can make a difference in the decision making at their building. The Climate Survey is featured in the latest LEAdvocate, too.

❖ Executive Director’s Report—Jim Rea

- The next shredding day will be Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the LEA parking lot with Palmer Refuse. Jim reminded FRs that, unlike other events, there is no limit to the amount of material that members bring.
- LB1006- Linda Freye testified in favor of this bill. This bill will move the enrollment date for Kindergarten to age 5 by July. Now on second reading. LB1007-Senator Adams, Assessment standards and accountability. We must be able to compare every building in the state. Federal wants a single number, the state wants to be able to determine the number, should be a variety of numbers.
- LEA will be sending a random survey to LEA members who have been LEA members for at least the last 10 years. A focus group of 12 members will also be scheduled.

**DRAWING:** A \$20 VISA gift card was won by Todd Dutton, Riley.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:** none

**COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Lincoln High School, Individual Concern: Today is the third Thursday of the month and for many of us that means LEA FR Council. At LHS, it is also the first night of Parent—Teacher—Student Conferences. So in order for me to be here, I am taking three hours of Annual Leave. I do understand the importance a value of Parent—Teacher—Student Conferences, but I also understand that if I had not taken Annual Leave—there would have been no one here to represent LHS and hear the information presented at this meeting. I know that each spring FR's are asked to remind our building leaders about trying to keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday open for FR Council. I also know that building calendars are busy and dates fill up quickly. I suspect (from tonight's attendance) that LHS is not the only building where this has caused a conflict for FRs. I also wonder how this works for coaches. Is there a way to impress on building principals the importance of keeping the third Thursday open for association meetings and work to avoid this in the future?

**RESPONSE:**

*President Absalon emailed the District Leadership; Dr. Gourley, Dr. Biggs, Dr. Moore, Dr. Scott, Dr. Jacobson, J. Neal, and Dr. Reckewey, stating that several buildings were absent from FR Council due to P/T Conferences on the third Thursday AGAIN. The email asked them to remind their respective groups to avoid the third Thursday as they schedule meetings, etc. for the next school year. This is also a topic of discussion for the LEA Negotiations team.*

**DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching:** Linda Nelson, Irving Middle School

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jenni adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Olmstead*

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Secretary-Treasurer