

FR Council

March 18, 2010

Union Bank, 4732 Calvert Lower Level 4:15p.m.

BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT: Adams, Belmont, Cavett, Holmes, Kooser, Lakeview, Lincoln North Star, Lincoln Northeast, Lux, McPhee, Morley, Park, Pershing, Pyrtle, Riley, Roper, and Sheridan.

“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING: A \$25 gift card to U Stop was won by Becky Hoefling, Meadow Lane, donated by Candace Specht and Horace Mann Insurance.

CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS: none

CALL TO ORDER: Jenni called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

2011-2012 CALENDAR PRESENTATION: John Neal/Jenni Absalon

John and Jenni presented information on the 2011/2012 school calendar and the process involved. FRs were asked to give feedback to John or Jenni by emailing them or completing the sheets given at FR Council.

DRAWING: Deb Rasmussen, Goodrich at Dawes, was winner of a grab bag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 18, 2010, were approved as printed.

LEA BOARD AT-LARGE NOMINATIONS: The following members were nominated for the vacant LEA At-Large Board Seat: Michael Geist, Lincoln Southwest; Linda Freye, Maxey; and Marge Keep, East High. The election will be held during the April 15th FR Council. Each candidate will be given three minutes to speak at the council meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jan Olmstead

The financial report for February 2010, was approved as presented.

2010-2011 LEA BUDGET DUES PROPOSAL: Jan Olmstead

Jan informed the FR Council that the LEA Board of Directors, by unanimous decision, is recommending a \$4 dues increase for the 2010-2011 Association Year. Action will be at April FR Council meeting.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

President’s Update—Jenni Absalon

- President’s Report--Jenni presented her calendar to the council
- Election Report--Jenni congratulated the following newly elected LEA board members: Jan Olmstead, Secretary/Treasurer; Liz Wysong Hoffart and Tammy Schafer, Elementary; John Heineman and Mandy Peterson, Senior High. Tammy Schafer and Linda Freye were elected to NSEA board seats. Jenni also announced Marcia Benner was elected to serve on the Executive Committee for Capital District, and Deb Rasmussen and Tammy Schafer will be At-Large delegates to Representative Assembly. LEA will send 20 delegates to Representative Assembly and 44 delegates to Delegate Assembly
- Superintendent Hire--Jenni has sent a letter to Dr. Steve Joel, newly hired LPS Superintendent to ask him to join us this year for negotiations training and negotiations.
- NSEA New Leader Institute--Any members interested are asked to contact Jenni. The training is three days during the second week in June.

- Action Plan
 - Member Relations
 - LEA Foundation
 - Fundraiser--FRs were given raffle tickets to sell for the fundraiser. All members are asked to please volunteer and contribute a basket for the fundraiser. The baskets will be wrapped at the LEA office on April 8th.
 - Scholarships/Grants--Applications for classroom grants of \$250 are due April 1, 2010. Scholarship applications are due April 15, 2010. We are able to give two \$500 scholarships to members. All information is on the LEA website.
 - 10 N 10 Shredding Event--The next event will be on April 10, 2010, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the LEA office. There is not a limit on the amount of paper for shredding members may bring.
 - Communication
 - Climate Survey--LEA has stressed to members the importance of completing the survey. To date 900 members have completed it.
 - Member Focus Group--Survey was sent to a random number of members who continuously remain members. On March 31, 2010, a select number of members will participate in a focus group.
 - Community Conversation--The conversation will take place on May 8, 2010, at Lincoln High. Out of 30 people who attended an informational meeting in February, 28 of those stated that they wish to be a trainer. The training, given by NSEA, will be held on May 5th or 6th. Thomas Christie, TJ McDowell, and Jenni Absalon will be in Washington, DC in April for the NEA training.
 - Harvest of Books, Planting the Seeds--There will be a booth at the Lawn and Leisure show this weekend at the Lancaster Event Center. Donations for the Harvest will be taken at this event. Jenni announced that tickets are free for the show and if any FR is interested they may volunteer to work at the booth.
 - Special Olympics--Volunteers are still being recruited. Some of the training is behind schedule. Jenni will be the supervisor for Track and Field at the Bob Devaney Center.

UniServ Director Report—Dan Studer

- Ain't Necessarily So # 18—Dan discussed three different scenarios: 1) Travel time and plan time (and mileage), 2) Supervision outside of the contract day and 3) Flex time. All three topics will be addressed in the next *LEAdvocate* for members.

DRAWING: Michael Geist, Lincoln Southwest; and Jan Enstrom, Randolph won copies of Teaching Hope: Stories from The Freedom Writer Teachers. The books were autographed by Paul Smith. Kathy Mueller, Clinton; and Julia Doerr, Lincoln High each won a grab bag.

Executive Director's Report—Jim Rea

Legislature: Jim updated FR Council on the status of LB 1006 and LB 1014.

State Aid: At this time it appears that LPS will receive an increase of \$1.8 million. Jim reminded FRs that there will be a cliff effect at the end of the 2010/2011 school when the ARRA stimulus money is eliminated. Negotiations: Negotiations will be held April 19, 20 and 21st at the LEA office. Since the April FR meeting will have already been held by that time, there may be a special FR council meeting to discuss the results of the

negotiation efforts. An invitation has been given to Dr. Steve Joel, newly hired LPS Superintendent, to attend negotiations and negotiations training.

Continuous Member Focus Group: From 300 surveys sent to continuous members LEA selected 12 members to participate in the focus group on March 31, 2010. Results will be shared in the near future.

DRAWING: A \$20 gift certificate to Indigo Books, from First Nebraska Educators, was won by Mary Plageman, Rousseau Elementary.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ACTION ITEMS:

1) Policy Change

Moved by Marcia Benner, on behalf of the LEA Board of Directors, the "Service to Members Policy"

- a. Service to Members Policy: It is the role of LEA staff to work with active members and when appropriate, LEA-R members. To best serve the needs of LEA members, LEA staff will only work directly with members and not spouses, relatives, friends or colleagues of members. The exceptions to this policy would be in the event a member is in need of assistance related to health care issues and donated leave (the business of which they cannot attend to without family assistance), a colleague requesting catastrophic assistance for a member, or the death of a member.

Motion passes.

2) Audit Recommendations

Moved by Marcia Benner, on behalf of the LEA Board of Directors, the following bookkeeping and auditing policies:

- a. Conflict of Interest Policy
- b. Whistle Blower Policy
- c. Document Retention and Destruction Policy
- d. Process of Determining Compensation Policy
- e. Joint Venture Policy

Motion passes.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Culler: Group Concern: Who's responsibility is it to attend transition meetings that may be held during plan time or after contract time? The District has not responded to an e-mail regarding the concern. Culler's concern has not been answered yet.

Marcia Benner, Lincoln High, Individual: I would like to thank Pat Etherton, as the "Cat in the Hat" and Senator Amanda McGill, as herself. On the morning of March 2nd, they were at the Lincoln High Child Learning Center helping us celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America! Knowing that they both have very busy schedules, I am sincerely grateful to both of them for making this happen for the LDS infants and their mothers! Thank you LEA for being such a big part of making Read Across America happen in Lincoln.

DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching: Daniel Ross, Calvert Elementary

ADJOURNMENT: Jenni adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Olmstead

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Secretary-Treasurer