

FR Council

April 21, 2011

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

BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT: Arnold, Beattie, Bryan, Hill, Humann, Lakeview, Lincoln Northeast, Lux, McPhee, Morley, Riley, Saratoga, Schoo, Scott, Zeman.

“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING: Lori Waters, Irving Middle School, won a \$25 gift card to Indigo Books.

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

CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS:

Jenni announced that she and John Heineman were elected as NEA Directors this past weekend at NSEA Delegate Assembly. Jenni read Cindy Lange Kubick’s article in today’s Lincoln Journal Star supporting collective bargaining.

LEA-PAC ENDORSED SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES:

Richard Meginnis, District 4, and Katie McLeese Stephenson, District 6, spoke to the council regarding their candidacy for Lincoln Public School Board of Education.

EHA/BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD/HEALTH CARE PRESENTATION:

Kurt Genrich, EHA Plan Advocate, provided FR Council members with information regarding benefits for preventative services and other changes to the insurance plan. This information will be sent to all members within the next few weeks.

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

LB84—Roads Bill: Senator Deb Fischer, maker of the bill, amended her bill from ½ cent to ¼ cent. It will need 30 votes to survive a veto by the Governor.

LB235—State Aid: Moved to final reading late this afternoon or next Tuesday. There is no opposition to this bill.

LB382—Retirement: The 2012 retirement contribution will be 8.8%, 2013-2016 the contribution will be 9.78% and in 2017 it will drop back to 7.28%.

Jim congratulated Jenni and John on their election as NEA Directors.

LB397—CIR: Jenni cited the South Sioux City School District and the fact that they have had to go to the CIR often because the Board will not allow teachers to move on the salary schedule. Senator Lathrop has been working closely with all parties regarding this bill. Governor Heineman has said this compromise bill is not enough. The NSEA Delegate Assembly met April 15-16, 2011, and approved a resolution to consider the option of initiating five ballot issues, including: protecting the role of the CIR, repealing corporate tax breaks, establishing a “millionaire’s tax,” a referendum to repeal laws that divert money from general fund to roads funds, and constitutionally setting a percentage of sales tax revenue to education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The March 17, 2011, FR Council minutes were approved as printed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jan Olmstead

The financial report for March was approved as presented.

RECOMMENDED DUES PROPOSAL: Jan Olmstead

Jan explained the process for establishing the LEA dues and stated that the LEA Board recommends that the 2011-2012 LEA dues be \$169. At the May 19, 2011 FR Council there will be discussion and voting on the dues proposal.

DRAWINGS: The following names were drawn for a choice of a canvas tote bag: Nicole Peterson, Prescott Elementary School; Jeanne Hack, Randolph Elementary School; Carol LaFeber, Lincoln High School; Connie Lacy, Lincoln High School, and Shawn Carlson, Roper Elementary School.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

President's Update—Jenni Absalon

- Member Relations
 - Climate Survey: 1,100 members have completed the climate survey for their buildings. LEA will be sharing the surveys with the school board members. The results will be compiled before the end of the school year.
 - Membership/Early Enrollment: Jenni announced that currently 67 members are retiring as compared to 32 the previous year. A retirement dinner will be held at Misty's in Havelock. Jenni gave a \$50 check for enrolling an early enrollment to Matt Erb, Koozer Elementary. Jenni reminded FRs to enroll potential members and the person who signs them up will receive a monetary gift.
 - NSEA Leadership Institute—This institute will be held July 20-22, 2011, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Please contact Jenni if you are interested in attending.

- Communications
 - LPS Board/Budget: Jenni encouraged members to attend the LPS Board meetings and the LPS Budget hearings. Jenni discussed the LEA/LPS Appraisal Manual and action taken at the April 18th LEA Board meeting.

- Community
 - Community Conversation Continued—there will be another conversation on May 3rd at North Star. This meeting will discuss transitioning between levels.
 - LPS Strategic Plan Committee will be meeting April 29, April 30, May 13, and May 14, 2011.
Jenni Absalon and Jan Olmstead are on this committee.
 - LEAF Grant Winners—Jules Spickelmier, Everett, received the elementary grant.

“The Rights Stuff” – Dan Studer, LEA UniServ Director

Dan spoke on The LEA/LPS Professional Agreement, Article 5-9: Covering Class or Combining Classes in the Absence of a Substitute. He stressed that teachers are to be compensated when additional students are moved into another teacher's class (including when students are divided up among several teachers) and when teachers are asked to give up plan time when a substitute is not available and normally would be requested.

DRAWING: Nancy Fischer, Mickle Middle School, won a \$20 gift card to Indigo Books. Gloria Latifi, Pershing, won a \$25 gift card to a restaurant of her choice, compliments of Horace Mann.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Group Comment/Concern: Irving Middle School

The Systems Specialist (Computer Techs) are being cut back...but no money is being saved. Currently every high school has a Systems Specialist (they also cover the focus schools) and every middle school has a systems specialist. With these cuts, there will now be 8 to cover all middle schools and elementary schools. We are not computer specialists, so when our classes are in the computer lab and we have problems we get the computer person to fix it. What will happen when we have 30 students in the computer lab and we have a problem we can't fix and there is no computer tech in the building? Is a "help" ticket going to help us at that moment? What if we are in the middle of NeSA testing and no one is there to help? The number is being reduced but no reduction in funds as individual contract days are going up and so are their salaries. We don't understand why this cut is being made if we aren't saving money?

Group Comment/Concern: Southwest High School

Teachers, administrators and specialists are currently held accountable by appraisal processes that involve input from those for whom they serve. However, is there a mechanism for appraisal of curriculum specialists and supervisors that includes input from the teachers they serve?

DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching: Susan Townsend, Lefler Middle School

ADJOURNMENT: Jenni adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Olmstead

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Secretary-Treasurer