

FR Council

December 16, 2010

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

**BUILDINGS NOT PRESENT:** Belmont, Brownell, Campbell, Holmes, Humann, Kooser, Lakeview, Lincoln Northeast, McPhee, Morley, Park, Pershing, Randolph, Riley, Saratoga, Schoo, and Zeman.

**“EARLY BIRD” DRAWING:** Deb Coyle, Sheridan Elementary, won a \$20 gift card donated by First Nebraska Educator’s Credit Union.

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

**CHECK IN/CELEBRATIONS:** none

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Kathy Danek, President of LPS School Board

Mrs. Danek spoke to FRs regarding the following issues: assessments, the growth of LPS and possible need for additional buildings, strategic planning for LPS, physical education requirement for elementary students, and informed FRs that a committee has been set to name the present Bryan Community and Hawthorne Elementary buildings. Questions from FRs: position on decentralization of LPSDO, explanation of middle school physical education, holding students accountable for class requirements before 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and middle level philosophy.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The November 18, 2010, FR Council minutes were approved as printed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Jan Olmstead

The financial report for November was approved as presented.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

President’s Update—Jenni Absalon

- Member Relations
  - ✓ District Update—Jenni encouraged FRs to voice their opinion on LPSDO decentralization to LPS School Board Members and to neighbors/patrons of the district.
  - ✓ Variance Language—85% of the building staff must approve the changes in their buildings.
  - ✓ Membership— LEA membership is down about 20 members from last year. NSEA is down 200 members and NEA is down 20,000 members. Alabama just enacted legislation not allowing unions to use payroll deductions for membership dues. Colorado just passed a law that allows appraisers to place teachers back on probation status.
  - ✓ Seniority List—Jenni reminded FRs that changes must be made by January 3, 2011, and if there is a question of placement, please contact the LEA office.
  - ✓ Risk Management/Safety Committee—Teachers have been charged with accidental damage to computers. The District is investigating a possible \$45 insurance plan teachers may purchase to cover damage to laptops. The District is developing a section on the website that will walk staff through procedures for risk management.
  - ✓ ProCom—The committee met on Friday, December 17th and the agenda for the year was set. Elementary report cards will be one of the items to be discussed, also the use of district email and the BEST Practices Handbook.

- Communications
  - ✓ 2011 Elections—FRs were given a flier with tentative election information.
  - ✓ Member News—Please let Jenni know if any news regarding awards members have received so they can be recognized
  - ✓ F.Y.I.-First Quarter Survey—Nearly 1,100 members took the survey. FRs were given a copy of the first issue of this year’s F.Y.I. This year copies of the F.Y.I. will be distributed to all LEA members, district officials, and LPS Board members.
  
- Community
  - ✓ NSEA Children’s Fund—Jenni reminded FRs that they could request donating to this fund through payroll deduction. LEA members use this fund more than anywhere else in the state and lately there have been numerous requests for funds.
  - ✓ LEA/NSEA/NEA Fund—Jenni also reminded FRs that donations to this fund can also be made through payroll deduction.
  - ✓ Leadership Lincoln—All Leadership Lincoln members visit a business in Lincoln, Jenni visited Nick Cusick, IMS Corp.
  - ✓ LIBA—LEA leadership and staff met with Coby Mach and Wanda Caffrey from LIBA.

**DRAWING:** Linda Nelson, Irving Middle School, won a \$20 gift card donated by First Nebraska Educator’s Credit Union. Liz Wysong Hoffart, Kahoa Elementary and Tracy Petitt, Kahoa Elementary, won a choice of a grab bag.

**“The Rights Stuff”** – Dan Studer, LEA UniServ Director  
 Dan presented FRs information on LPS Board Policy 4750, “Civility of Employees.”

**Executive Director’s Report**—Jim Rea, LEA Executive Director  
 Jim discussed the NSEA 2011 Legislative Priorities. There are four broad areas of focus: prioritize funding for P-16 Education, preserve the retirement system, enhance lottery-funded tuition reimbursement program and preserve the integrity of the Commission of Industrial Relations. Jim shared and discussed an editorial in the Lincoln Journal Star, December 16, 2010, on the need to reform public employee pay.

**DRAWING:** Nancy Fischer, Mickle; Diane Smith, Health Services; Lori Waters, Irving Middle School; Lynn Dixon, Lux Middle School; Marlyce Carlson, Lincoln High; and Sean Carlson, Roper Elementary won a variety of prizes.

A \$50 gift card (compliments of Horace Mann agents, Candace Specht and Bryan Nieman) was won by Rita Bennett, Lincoln Southeast.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** none

**COMMENTS, CONCERNS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Group Concern/Comment, Prytle Elementary:** We are not getting 1:1 para-educator substitutes. We get resource para subs but not 1:1. Resource teachers are absorbing these students because we are so short. Should we get extra standard pay or can an itinerant para from central office be sent out?

**Response:** *We are continuing to recruit and hire substitute paras. Mary Beth recently indicated that she is going to inform substitute teachers about the job opportunities as a substitute para. If teachers know of qualified people looking for employment, please refer those possible candidates to Marla Styles.*

*I spoke to Dr. Reckewey about the itinerant special education paras. Those employees are continuously busy working with students.*

*If teachers are losing plan time due to the lack of a substitute para, those teachers should confer with the Special Education Coordinator or Principal.*

**DRAWING for ½ day of Guest Teaching:** Shelly Clayburn

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jenni adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jan Olmstead*

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Secretary-Treasurer