

NUEA Minutes Representative Assembly February 28, 2005

NUEA Offices

4:05 p.m. Call to Order

Riverwoods and Kingsley not represented.

- ♥ Someone motioned and Betty Lou 2nd Motion approved the minutes
- ♥ Ed Rosenthal introduced Kathy Wessel, Board of Trustees of College of DuPage. who will be nominating Ed at the IEA meeting (for president). Asked for support for and use of College of DuPage.

♥ Treasurer's Report

Bill Madsen

- Conference and negotiation expenses are increasing. Bill thinks we might exceed negotiation expenses.
- Pat motioned, Holly seconded to accept the treasurer report. Motion carried.

♥ Elections, March 1 –

Pat Fallon

- Pat explained the distribution and collection of Spring Elections Materials
- Dave talked about by law changes that will be brought up for vote at the annual meeting. :
 - (1) Region Council – should we elect from at large or from this body?
 - (2) Can we eliminate the process of petition to be elected as an officer to the NUEA?

♥ President's Report

David Griffith

1. **Capitol Action Days** – The IEA has developed an action plan to deal with the state legislature and the specific issue about TRS and the ERO sunset. Part of the plan all members can be part of are the Blizzard Lobby Days. On March 16, April 13 and May 11, every member is encouraged to call/fax/email their state legislature to tell them they need to support and pass the extension of ERO. These will be critical action Days. In addition, on April 13, we are encouraging members of the NUEA to take a personal day for their retirement. We will be scheduling a bus to take us down to Springfield to lobby our legislators. We will be going with other IEA members from surrounding locals.
2. **IEA RA and the IEA Budget** – As we mentioned at the last meeting, the IEA continues to experience difficult financial times. Last year, the IEA RA voted to restrict and reduce items in the budget and keep a projected \$100 dues increase to \$39. This year, if nothing is added to the budget, the expected dues increase is \$13. But there are many groups who want to reestablish some of the cuts from last year.. The problems include, the federal requirement for the IEA to fund the staff pension

plan at 90%, staffing and loss of dues due to a loss of membership with the cut backs in school districts. There has been a great deal of discussion and debate. .’

3. **NUEA Spring Elections, March 1, 2005** – The date for the spring elections is March 1st. The elections will be held in the buildings as usual. Please make sure that the elections are held in every building as there are contested positions. If you have any questions regarding the elections, please contact Pat Fallon, NNHS at pfallon@ncusd203.org
4. **Letter of Understanding** – The district, when hiring retired teachers, placed them at a maximum of 10 years on the salary schedule. The NUEA has taken the stand that a person hired in the district should be placed as any other teacher being hired which is up to 15 years of experience. Attached is a draft of an agreement which we are very close with the district.
5. **Insurance**– The Adventist hospitals withdrew from the PPO network. However, through a separate agreement with BSSI, we will continue to pay in network prices with any Adventist hospital. For more information on our insurance plan, please go to www.nuea203.org
6. **IEA Committee** - – There are many IEA committees and this is the time of year the IEA makes appointments to these committees (see attached). If you are interested, please let David Griffith know as soon as possible.

♥ Stipend Committee

Wayne Anderson

Wayne needs volunteers to serve on this committee. Usually start meeting in March, however this year will probably start in April. Comprised of 10 people (five NUEA, and five administrations.) Wayne needs volunteers from all levels.

♥ Negotiations Report

Team Members

Phil reported that 20.5 hours have been spent (with 8 hours of prep time) this past week. One topic was Pro Growth Issues. Curriculum issues are emotional. The administration recognizes the issues, as well as the school board. All meetings will be re evaluated. Use of core texts will be evaluated. (Meaningful meetings as a goal.) DFE was brought up. Special Education issues will be addressed. Ed spoke to the fact that the process is very different from before: explained interest based bargaining. Elementary reps on the team are doing a great job representing the elementary level. Board has an interest in finishing up, they don't want the next board to vote on this contract (elections are coming up soon.)

♥ Springfield Visit

Cari Adams

Cari spoke about her trip to Springfield regarding school funding (differences or similarities) around the state.

♥ NEA Directors Report

Ed Rosenthal

Ed reported that at the board meeting systems consultants were brought in to see how there could be a better NEA.

- ♥ GPA: Diane McGuire: organized a grass roots committee for political action. She mentioned that young teachers thought that the new teacher luncheon was overwhelming. They would prefer small group meetings. Legislative outreach. NUPACE- preparing for school board elections and interviewing candidates. There will be signs for supported candidates. April 5th is the election.
- ♥ Old Business: Evaluations and non tenure teachers. Second year teachers are having difficulty with evaluations where there have not had in the first year. If members know of this same type of situation is occurring, please let the exec. board know about this.

New Business/Member Concerns

- ♥ A memo went to principals which asked for a doctor's excuse after 4 days. Intent that there is a log of number of sick days used. This was not a mandate, just a suggestion.
- ♥ Dress code: there is not a "dress code" in our district, only guidelines for proper attire.
- ♥ Attendance at school during lunch and prep time? Lunch - you may be away from the building, however prep time you should be in the building, if not, you should sign out.
- ♥ Dave mentioned that people have been asked to have meetings during lunch, he asked that members not get in the habit.
- ♥ Question about letters of assurance were answered by Phil.

John Cotton and Betty Lou won certificates.

Adjournment: 5:49