

Representative Assembly

Minutes

02/23/04 Monday

3:56 p.m.

Jefferson Junior High School

Schools not represented: **Kingsley**

1. Representative Jim Meyer spoke about what is going on in education in Springfield. Rep. Meyer implored that constituents write the speaker of the house as well as your representatives on issues of education concern.
2. **Approval of the Minutes, January Meeting:** Greg H moved to accept, 2nd by Sue D. Motion passed.
3. **Treasurer's Report** Bill Madsen
 - Over budget on the Midwest winter conference and over budget on association release. Mary Beth L. moved and Kathy R 2nd, motion passed.
4. **Elections, March 2 –** Pat Fallon

Distribution of Spring Elections Materials - It is very important that all ARs are present to pick up and understand the election procedures. Pat recommended the movie *Radio!* Pat reminded everyone if they choose to write in candidates, they need to write in the position as well as the candidate name. Make sure you have the ballots by 5pm in board room A at PSAC. Pat also needs help in verifying ballots on receipt.
5. **President's Report** David Griffith
 - **Medicare Referendum** – There is a one time non-revocable election to join Medicare for teachers who were hired and continuously employed since 1986. You do not need to join Medicare if you already have the needed 40 credits. Also, you need to consider the costs. The Medicare tax is 1.42% which is \$1136 for \$80,000. You are also covered if your spouse is covered under Medicare.
 - **IEA RA and the IEA Budget** – As we mentioned at the last meeting, the IEA is experiencing a tremendous shortfall in it budget for next year. The IEA Budget committee has presented several options for the delegates to consider that ranges form a couple of dollars to \$100.00. The problems include shortfalls in the investments, the federal requirement for the IEA to fund the staff pension plan at 90%, overstaffing 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. The Large Local Network is pushing for a restructuring of the IEA to make sure the resources are where they need to be and that is “service to members.”
 - **NUEA Spring Elections, March 2, 2004** – The date for the spring elections is March 2nd. 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

- **Insurance Committee** – The Insurance committee is charged with reviewing our insurance plan and make suggestions to the plan’s improvement and financial health. Our first organizational meeting to establish our focus was last week. NUEA needs 2 additional members to be a part of this committee. If you are interested, please let Dave Griffith know at dgriffnuea@aol.com
- **NUEA Scholarships**– The forms for the NUEA scholarships will be posted on the NUEA website @ www.nuea203.org Scholarships are available to the children of NUEA members. There is no requirement for them to become teachers.
- **IPC Tech Committee** – The NUEA and administration through the Instructional and Professional Concerns Committee has established a committee for the purpose of establishing standards for use of technology. Included in its tasks are:
 - Establish minimal competency standards and expectations for staff.
 - Establish standards of communication within and without the the district.
 - Establish standards of security and safety of the district’s network and employees and coordinate these standards and safety with the district’s student discipline policy
 - Examine and establish quality standards of hardware and sofeware to be used in the district.
 - Develop assessment of the use of technology in the district. report to help explain it. The bottom line is that there will be no action on TRIP in the foreseeable future.
 - Currently, NUEA members on the committee are Rick Schrock; PSAC, Lisa Yost; Prairie, Ed Rosenthal; NNHS Helen Frank; WJHS and David Griffith
- **Mentoring Pilot Program**– Finally, we are working to establish a pilot mentoring program in the district. After much haggling, we will be putting together a program aimed at the “new to the profession” elementary teachers. From there we plan to expand to Special Ed, junior High and then High School.
- **NEA Midwest Leadership Conference** – This year, John Cotton, Phil and Sonja Cappelleri and I attended the Midwest leadership Conference in Minneapolis Minnesota. Among the topics covered were ESEA (Leave No Child Behind), Health Insurance Issues and the national political situation and NEA’s agenda. We also heard from Reg Weaver, NEA President and the other NEA officers and the Keynote speaker was Ruby Payne who spoke about Understanding the Framework of Poverty. It was an extremely good and powerful presentation.
- **2005-06 School Calendar** - The 2005-06 school calendar is included. Please look it over and provide comments.

- **Rockford Education Association proposal** - The REA is proposing that the IEA move legislation to fix the problematic recertification issue. (see attached) The NUEA Executive Board voted to include our voice in this and fully support the REA.

6. School Climate Survey

Dave Griffith

Schools are asked to have these finished and back to Dave by March 5th..Use number 2 pencils.

7. NUPACE: Diane McGuire – would like to have registration for voting and train registrars. School board elections: Diane is looking for help on the committee. There will be four seats open on the school board.

8. Stress Task Force Update

Wayne: Junior highs will be surveyed. Would like information back by the end of the week. There will be a meeting of all junior high RAs and stress committee junior high members at noon at Jefferson on March 1. John Cotton: High School is finished. Three top stressors have been identified (overcrowding, interruptions both to the school day and over the PA, and lack of consistent discipline.) Char Stockwell (elementary) Elementary is almost finished at will finish March 16 and present to administration on March 24. Things that are high on elementary list: curriculum, lack of time to plan, field testers, assessor program.

9. Other Business: Sub caller: One of the members explained that her school was required to call both the principal and sub caller. She was told this is not the case, and should not be required.

Winners of drawing: Joyce Bailey and John Cotton

Adjournment 5:48