
Warren Education Association, MEA/NEA

www.WarrenEA.org

Congress Minutes

Carter Middle School
Monday

February 2, 2009
4:15 p.m.

For your information the following is a summary of actions taken by the WEA Congress at its February 2, 2009 meeting. These minutes are unofficial until approved by Congress at its next regular scheduled meeting.

Zone Caucus

Zone Reports:

1. Zone I: Discussions on parents expecting meetings with teachers without making an appointment, Title I intervention teachers being pulled to sub, School Improvement funds to be used only by the individual School Improvement Committees, and the Writing Curriculum.
2. Zone II: Discussions on mice in classrooms, retirees no longer involved in Writing Celebration, and RCM issues including stapling, sorting, blank specials page, no second copy, report cards not in alphabetical order and arriving only 2 hours prior to distribution deadline.
3. Zone III: Discussions on class size overages, teachers denied overage because of ELL translator in class.
4. Zone IV: Discussion on ELL class size overages, problems with GLP losing 403(b) deposits.

Adoption of Agenda: Under President Report add #9. Dues and Tax Information, #10. W-2s.

MOTION: To adopt agenda as amended.

Weston/Callender

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: To adopt the minutes of January 12, 2009 as written.

Weston/Alred

MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer's Report: As written.

Trustees Report

1. Set March 24 & 25, 2009 as dates for March General Election
2. Changed Trustee Meeting dates to accommodate WCS conference that some Trustees will be attending.

Committee Reports

1. Grievance & Arbitration: Awaiting hearing dates for two new grievances which were filed this year. 08-01 deals with a letter of written reprimand, and 08-02 deals with teacher's pay for lunch duty. Step III hearing held on 403(b) contributions. Awaiting response.
2. IMPACT:
 - a. Recent Legislation: The proposal for the School Employee Retirement Stimulus encourages public school employees who are eligible to retire to do so in the near future. The savings come when school districts are able to replace retiring teachers and staff with newer employees starting at a lower salary. The program would also open badly needed jobs for the next generation of dedicated school employees and keep young families here in Michigan. *This legislation has not yet been introduced. Members are encouraged to check at MEA.org to see how it progresses prior to making any retirement decisions.*
 - b. MEA Lobby Day: To be held February 18, 2009. Several WEA members are attending.
 - c. School Board Election: To be held May 5, 2009. IMPACT, the political action arm of the Warren Education Association, will hold a candidate Screening and Recommendation meeting on February 24, 2009 for all WCS school board candidates.
3. Public Relations:
 - a. Valentine's Day Treat: Members will receive a small treat from the WEA PR Committee.
 - b. Upcoming TGIF: Scheduled for Friday, March 13th at Gator Jakes from 3:30-6 p.m.
4. Delegations:
 - a. MEA Board of Directors: Discussions held regarding MEA Budget and the Legislative Agenda.
 - b. Region Six: Next meeting to be held February 9, 2009.
5. Curriculum Steering Committee (CSC): Funds are expended.
6. Professional Staff Development (PSD): Funds are expended.
7. Nominations Committee Report: As written.

President's Report

1. Board Paid Annuity: President Naski advised that **all** members must inform the district of their choice of carrier **even if your carrier has not changed** before June 30, 2009. The forms to do so were sent by email to every member. If they have not completed the form by June 30, 2009, they will forfeit the 1.0% contribution for this year.
2. WCS Teachers of the Year: Amy Koelsch-Sterling Heights High School, Betty Rinehart-Grissom Middle School and Kim Viviano-Cromie Elementary School are the WCS Teachers of the Year for 2009. President Naski thanks those WEA members who served on the selection committee.
3. Harbinger: To be distributed in late April.

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4. Bowling for Scholars: To be held April 24, 2009. Sign-ups for the Warren Education Association Scholarship Fund (WEASF) will be in the buildings after Winter Break.
5. Website Content: In order to help teacher find Job Share and Position Exchange partners, the WEA has dedicated a portion of the www.WarrenEA.org to a posting board for teachers who would like to job share or do a position exchange. If you are thinking of possibly doing a job share or position exchange, email us at classifieds@WarrenEA.org and we will post in the members only area (so that principals cannot read it). Hopefully, together, we will be able to find everyone a match. Remember that the deadline to submit a job share application is March 15. The WEA is no way guarantees your ability to find a job share partner or a position exchange partner.
6. Co-Teaching Committee: Maureen Dierwa, Marie Huggins, Christie Warchol, Dave Mangune, and David Murphy from the WEA are working with administration to provide members with a clear definition and guidelines of Co-Teaching.
7. Itinerant Update: WEA leadership is working on numerous itinerant concerns including increased caseloads, lack of job descriptions, and lack of written directions from Special Education Director.
8. Elementary Concerns:
 - a. Push-In: Will be done in the 3rd grades only. If you have no 3rd grade resource room students it will move to the 4th grade.
 - b. Double Dip (Double Dose): Will start after Winter Break in all elementary grades. Principals will be providing information to staffs.
9. Dues and Tax Information: Our understanding of the tax law is that union dues are not deductible unless you have miscellaneous deductions exceeding 2% of your gross income. The dues can then be lumped into miscellaneous deductions, and you can only deduct those expenses in excess of the 2%. You should refer to your pay stubs for an exact amount, as the MEA dues amount is now a percentage of your salary. As a result, not all members pay the same dollar amount of dues. If you cannot locate all of your check stubs, you may email the WEA office at office@warreneia.org and request your total dues amount for 2008. We would advise that you consult your tax accountant before claiming such a deduction because of the constant changes in tax laws. Also, you can deduct up to \$250 of unreimbursed expenses you paid or incurred for books, supplies, computer equipment (including related software and services), other equipment, and supplementary materials that you use in the classroom. The deduction is claimed on line 23 of Form 1040. You do not need to itemize to take this deduction. Again, we would advise that you consult your tax accountant before claiming such a deduction because of the constant changes in tax laws.
10. W-2's: This district has informed employees by email of errors on some W-2's. Corrected W-2's will be issued **only to those whose forms were incorrect**, so members cautioned are not to throw out the forms they have already received.

New Business

1. MOTION: To confirm appointment of Christine Lewis to I.M.P.A.C.T.
Kellar/Alred MOTION CARRIED
2. Nominations for WEA President, MEA Representative Assembly Delegate, NEA Representative Assembly Delegate (two year term). None.
3. Nominations for WEA Vice President, MEA Representative Assembly Delegate Alternate, NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Alternate (two year term). None.
4. Nominations for NEA Representative Assembly Delegate. None.
5. Nominations for MEA Representative Assembly Delegate. None.
6. Nominations for High School Curriculum Steering Committee. None
7. Nominations for Middle School Curriculum Steering Committee. None.
8. Nominations for Elementary Curriculum Steering Committee. Jay Holtvluwer, Robin Mercier.

Attendance:

Trustees: Jessica Kuhn, Lisa Sikoski, Bob Callender, John Cafagna, Josh Weston, Jon Fielbrandt

RA Delegates:

Zone I

Robin Mercier
Michelle Przybylo
Pam kellar
Kristen Posthumus
Kim McGuire
Julie Tanner
Renee Barnwell
Cheryl Busquaert
Kelly Juronoc
David Wilson
Sandra Brioc

Zone II

Debra Lariviere
Kate Battersby
Christy Stone
Sandy Newell
Jennifer Kochanski

Zone III

Don Bietler
Christine Lewis
Nancy Wayne
Bob Callender
Josh Weston
Michele Herndon
Jill Alred
Dawn Ross
Yasso Yasso
Jeff Olind
Eric Walivaara
Eric Wachterhauser
Ron Texter
Tom Thomas
Dan Barterian

Zone IV

Amber Williamson
Marcia Adamek
Susan Flis
Karen Abella
Frank Marberg
Bob Delicato
Patti Mulholland

Adjournment: 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Eisenberger,
6A Warren and Fitzgerald Coordinating Council
Field Assistant