
Warren Education Association, MEA/NEA

www.WarrenEA.org

Congress Minutes

Carter Middle School
Monday

March 2, 2009
4:15 p.m.

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

Zone Caucus: We need vote counters on Wednesday, March 25th for the WEA General Elections. We need 4 counters from each zone.

Zone Reports:

1. Zone I: Discussions on details related to Writing Celebration. Concerns regarding classroom cleanliness.
2. Zone II: Concerns regarding classroom cleanliness. Members advised to email Robert Carlesso with a list of cleaning issues that need to be addressed as he will be looking into how the cleaning of rooms is scheduled.
3. Zone III: Discussions on curriculum problems and heating problems at Sterling Heights High School.
4. Zone IV: Discussion on ELL class size overages and possible concerns over odd/even schedule.

Adoption of Agenda: Under President Report add #10. Mentor Contracts.

Weston/Alred

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

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

Weston/Callender

MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer's Report: As written.

Trustees Report

1. WEA March General Elections: To be held March 24 & 25, 2009.

Committee Reports

1. Grievance & Arbitration:
 - a. Step II
 - 1) Written Reprimand (08-01): Resolved. Awaiting grievance settlement paperwork.
 - 2) Lunch Duty (08-02): Step II hearing was held with Todd Biederwolf on February 27, 2009. Waiting for response.
 - 3) Psychologists' Assignments (08-03): Waiting for Step II hearing date from Administration.
 - 4) Denial of Weingarten Rights (08-04): Waiting for Step II hearing date from Administration.
 - b. Step III
 - 1) 403(b) Contributions (07-02): Grievance granted. Awaiting list from Administration of members who will be effected by the outcome of this grievance so that we can sign off on final resolution of the matter.
2. IMPACT:
 - a. Recent Legislation:
 - 1) School Employee Retirement Stimulus: Introduced as HB 4285 and SB0255. Major provisions of the bill include: increase the multiplier to 2% for those who put in for retirement during the designated window of 4/1/09 through 3/31/10; member must go directly from active employment to collecting a pension; member must agree to have his/her pension suspended if s/he returns to work in a public school as a contract employee within two years.
 - 2) Budget 2009-10: The initial budget proposal calls for \$164 million in cuts to K-12. Awaiting details of federal stimulus package to see how cuts are implemented, if any.
 - 3) Mandatory Attendance : Two bills have been introduced requiring mandatory attendance to age 18. The MEA supported the bills in committee recognizing that additional work needs to be done developing programs to meet the needs of students who dropout of school.
 - 4) Privatization – HB 4219 would remove the prohibition in the Public Employment Relations Act against school employees having the right to negotiate over the issue of privatization of their services.
 - b. MEA Lobby Day: Held February 18, 2009. Several IMPACT trustees met with Liss, Rocca, Switalski and Olshove to discuss retirement stimulus, payroll deductions for PAC, and WCS 20(j) funds.
 - c. School Board Election: To be held May 5, 2009. IMPACT, the political action arm of the Warren Education Association, has endorsed incumbents Susan Katula and Brian White for WCS School Board
3. Public Relations:
 - a. T.G.I.Friday the 13th: To be held March 13th at Gator Jakes from 3:30-6:00 p.m. All members are invited.
 - b. New Teacher Outreach: All mentors and mentees received a special invitation to the T.G.I.Friday.
 - c. Teacher Appreciation: All members will receive a small gift for Teacher Day.
4. Delegations:
 - a. MEA Board of Directors: Discussions held regarding MEA Budget and dues.
 - b. Region Six: Next meeting to be held April 27, 2009.
5. Curriculum Steering Committee (CSC): Funds are depleted.
6. Professional Staff Development (PSD): A small amount of funds are available because some members did not use the entire amount they were allotted. If you wish to attend a conference, please apply immediately.

7. **Bowling for Scholars:** To be held April 24, 2009. Flyers for this fundraising event were distributed to building reps. Buildings have also been asked to donate gift baskets to be raffled off during the fundraiser, and find local businesses to sponsor lanes. Proceeds will be donated to the Warren Education Association Scholarship fund, which gives four \$1,000 scholarships to WCS students each year.

President's Report

1. **Annuity Payments (GLP):** There have been some initial problems with the introduction of GLP as the third party administrator for annuities. Due to communication issues between WCS and GLP, some payments have been sent late to your annuity company. Hopefully things have been corrected. If there are any new concerns, please contact the WEA office.
 - a. **Board Paid:** In order to receive 1% of your Schedule A salary (including Schedule A pay for any extra periods taught) to either your 403(b) or 457 plan you must complete both the 403(b) Salary Reduction Agreement and the Confirmation of Request to Participate in the Warren Consolidated Schools 403(b) Plan and return both forms to Kathy Wilkins at the WCS Payroll Department by June 30, 2009. If you do not complete this paperwork, you will forfeit the 1% of your Schedule A salary in either your 403(b) or 457 plans.
 - b. **Individual:** Please be advised, if you have selected a lump sum contract pay-off in June 2009, as provided in Article XIII, Section E, paragraph 3, there will only be a single bi-weekly 403(b)/457 contribution deducted through payroll. You have the option of adjusting your annual deduction at anytime by completing a new Salary Reduction Agreement through the GLP Strategic Administrative Group, LLC to maximize your contribution to the 403(b)/457 program.
2. **Science and Social Studies K-12 Curriculum:** Any members interested in assisting with the development of this curriculum should contact Brian Walmsley once the position is posted.
3. **Developmental Kindergarten (DK):** The district has decided that this program will end after this school year. 1/2 day traditional kindergarten will only be offered at six (6) sites.
4. **March General Elections:** March 24, & 25, 2009: Building reps were briefed on the rules for running this election.
5. **Job Share and Position Exchange:**
 - a. **WEA Website (www.WarrenEA.org):** Job Share and Teacher Exchange postings have been added under the "Members Only" section.
 - b. **Forms for Job Share** are due to the Human Resources department by March 16, 2009.
6. **NCLB:** A portfolio has been approved for secondary special ed. which will cover all core academic areas. Administration will be sending out new Highly Qualified forms to all teachers in the near future.
7. **Itinerant Update:** WEA leadership held a meeting with Brian Walmsley, Todd Biederwolf, Karen Hill, Dave Walsh and Shari Fitzpatrick to set goals and expectations going forward within Special Education. A follow-up meeting was held at the 2/29/09 cabinet meeting. Will be reporting back at next meeting with more specifics.
8. **Elementary Concerns:**
 - a. **Push-In:** Will be done in the 3rd grades in buildings where there are no 3rd grade resource room students. The push-in will take place in an alternative grade.
 - b. **Double Dip (Double Dose):** The program will remain on hold until further notice.
9. **Elementary Conference Schedule:** According to the 2008-2010 contract, members may leave their buildings after their last **evening** conference has been held at Spring Conferences.
10. **Mentor Contracts:** Have not been sent out yet. Should be received in the next few weeks.

New Business

None.

Attendance:

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

RA Delegates:

Zone I

Robin Mercier
Michelle Przybylo
Pam Kellar
MaryAnn Bielski
Kim McGuire
Yvonne Razoock
Cheryl Busquaert
David Wilson
Sandra Brioc

Zone II

Debra Lariviere
Norman Davis
Kate Battersby
Christy Stone
Marijo Belt
Sandy Newell
Helen Silverstein
Jennifer Kochanski

Zone III

Jason Swords
Christine Lewis
Bob Callender
Josh Weston
Michelle Herndon
Jill Alred
Dawn Ross
Ron Texter
Paulette Brockington
Dan Barterian
Chris Malone

Zone IV

Amber Williamson
Marcia Adamek
Dale Knowlton
Katie Bennett
Sue Flis
Karen Abella
Bob Delicato
Heather Grimm
Patti Mullholland

Adjournment: 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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