
Warren Education Association, MEA/NEA

www.WarrenEA.org

Carter Middle School
Monday

Congress Minutes

May 7, 2007
4:15 p.m.

For your information the following is a summary of affirmative actions taken by the WEA Congress at its May 7, 2007 meeting. These minutes are unofficial until approved by Congress at its next regular scheduled meeting.

Zone Reports: None

Adoption of Agenda:

MOTION: To adopt agenda as written.
Alred/Callender

MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: To approve minutes of April 2, 2007.
Weston/Callender

MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer's Report: As written.

Trustees Report:

1. NEA Representative Assembly Delegate Stipend: Trustees approved a \$600 stipend for delegates who attended the NEA RA.
2. Summer Contact List: Congress members were reminded to update their contact information in case the WEA leadership needs to contact them over the summer.

Committee Reports:

1. Grievance & Arbitration: No new grievances or arbitration. On April 12, 2007, the Michigan Court of Appeals reversed the MERC decision and reinstated the Administrative Law Judge's (ALJ) original opinion finding the Warren Consolidated Schools committed an unfair labor practice by retaliating against Jim Fouts for pursuing a grievance against the WCS Board President. The District has not made a decision as to whether it will appeal the decision to the Michigan Supreme Court. If it does not appeal, the District must post the ALJ's order for 30 days in every work site.
2. IMPACT:
 - a. Recent Legislation: The Michigan House of Representatives adopted an amended version of HB 4628, sponsored by Rep Fred Miller (D-Mt. Clemens) and forwarded it to the Michigan Senate for action. The bill, if enacted into law, will make several changes in the Michigan Campaign Finance law, including some that are important to the MEA and its locals. In its current form the bill: removes the requirement that contributions to a PAC be authorized in writing AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR. PAC contributions would still need to be authorized in writing, but they would not have to be re-authorized every year and would remain in effect until rescinded; specifically states that use of a payroll deduction system is legal and does not constitute expenditure of public funds on campaign activity; transfer regulatory responsibility under the act from the partisan Secretary of State to the non-partisan Director of Elections; revise deadlines for campaign finance reports and make them consistent in all years; prohibit a "candidate committee" from paying salary or other compensation to the candidate; regulate automated phone calls, so-called "robo-calls"; prohibit honoraria for all state elected officials. The MEA strongly supports the bill.
 - b. State Budget Cut on Foundation Grant: Members are asked to write postcards to their legislators to pass a budget with new revenues that will allow funding of schools without cuts.
 - c. WCS Board of Education Election: To be held May 8, 2007. IMPACT has endorsed incumbent Pam Arnold.
 - d. Warren City Elections: IMPACT will screen candidates for mayor, city clerk and treasurer.
 - e. Macomb County Executive Petition Drive: IMPACT has made a commitment to help elect a Macomb County Executive. Building Reps were asked to circulate petitions to put the issue on the ballot.
3. Public Relations:
 - a. Teacher Day, May 8, 2007: Members will receive a gift from the PR Committee.
 - b. PR Committee Survey: Members received a survey from the PR Committee regarding activities they would like to participate in. Surveys will continue to be accepted even if they are past due.
 - c. TIGM (Thank Goodness It's May): To be held Wednesday, May 16th beginning a 3 p.m. at Gator Jakes (16 Mile & VanDyke). All WEA members are invited.
 - d. External PR:
 - 1) Universal Mall: Baby & Family Expo: President Naski thanked all members who helped at the WCS booth.
 - e. Harbinger: The next issue will be mailed to members' homes in July.

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4. Delegations:
 - a. MEA Board of Directors: No report.
 - b. Region Six: No report.
 - c. MEA Spring Representative Assembly: Held April 27 & 28, 2007. The MEA Budget was approved.
 - d. NEA Representative Assembly: June 30-July 5, 2007 in Philadelphia.
5. Curriculum Steering Committee (CSC): \$1,000 in funds remain.
6. Professional Staff Development (PSD): Funds are depleted, but there is a waiting list for funds that were not used by approved applicants.
7. Student Proficiency Advisory Board (SPAB): Sub-groups on the SPAB committee continue to meet.
8. Sub Problems (Shortage): The district only hires fully-certified subs. The district is continuing to hire subs until the end of the school year, unlike in the past where they have stopped hiring in May.
9. Building Issues: Middle School math teachers who are teaching a 6th hour should use the most recent and highest hourly rate that was e-mailed to them. This rate should be used for all 48 hours. If teachers previously turned in some of these hours at a lower rate, they should submit a correction at the highest rate.

President's Report

1. NCLB: Highly Qualified Teacher: The deadline has been extended. No deadline has currently been set.
2. Board Paid Annuity: President Naski advised that all members who have not yet done so must sign up with a carrier and inform the district of their choice before June 30, 2007. If they have not done this by June 30, 2007, they will forfeit the 1.75% contribution for this year. 1.75 percent of BA Base is \$784.51. At MA+30 Max it is \$1,561.39.
3. Class Size Overage Pay: Members are reminded to submit their overage form by Friday, June 1, 2007 in order to receive payment. Any submissions after that date will not be accepted by the administration.
4. Bargaining Survey: The surveys are currently being tabulated.
5. Position Exchange: To be held May 15, 2007 at 4:15 p.m. in the Administration Building Library Conference Room.
6. Bid Session: May 21, 2007: The voluntary transfer bid session will be held on the third Monday in May which is May 21, 2007 at 4:15 p.m. in the Administration Board Room. To be eligible for the bid session, a teacher must have been granted tenure status by the Board of Education for the following school year prior to April 30 of this year. They also must fill out an Unspecified Transfer Form at the Human Resources Department no later than May 16, 2007.
7. Contract Committees: Two committees, Special Education and Job Sharing, have completed their work and made recommendations. The other committees are still meeting.
8. Coaches Advancement Program (CAP): The district has conceded that this is a bargaining issue. Coaches do not have to attend CAP without reimbursement.
9. Elementary Computerized Report Card: President Naski has requested that teachers send him their ideas on how this system may be improved.
10. WEA Website
 - a. www.warrenea.org: Members are reminded that the WEA website will have regular updates once bargaining has begun.
11. Southfield Rally: Members were encouraged to attend a rally in support of the Southfield teachers on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.
12. June 15, 2007: The last day of school is optional for teachers who have turned in their grades and keys.

New Business

Attendance:

Trustees: Carolyn Moon, Lisa Sikoski, Bob Callender, John Cafagna, Josh Weston.

RA Delegates:

<u>Zone I</u>	<u>Zone II</u>	<u>Zone III</u>	<u>Zone IV</u>
Joann Klein	Rebecca Hunt	Bob Callender	Kelly Juronoc
Robin Mercier	Paul Roodbeen	Jill Alred	Marcia Adamek
Pam Keller	Kathryn Rose	Josh Weston	Michele Strojek
Bev Lanni	Christie Stone	Kevin Bullis	Karen Abella
Yvonne Razook	Sandy Newell	Michelle Herndon	Mike Volchko
Heidi Johannes	Marilyn Eperjesy	Ron Texter	Barbara Jones
Fern Cohen	Sara Heilig	Elizabeth Iljkoski	heather Wasmuth
Carolyn Moon		Eric Wachterhauser	
Sandra Brioc		Sue Arndt	
		Christine Dewey	

Adjournment: 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Eisenberger
WEA Office Secretary