



EAST BRUNSWICK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

575 Cranbury Road, Suites B1 & B2, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 (732) 390-6600 FAX (732) 390-6603

TO: EBEA Members
FROM: Beth Berzanskis, EBEA Secretary
RE: Representative Council Meeting Minutes – 3/13/18

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Administration:* D.Girgenti, J.Liberty; *Central:* K.Esposito, M.Fischer, J.Kroll; *Churchill:* J.Fessel, K.Shanks; *Frost:* J.Lyons; *Hammarskjold:* L.Fitter, M.Green, C.Gregory, M.Haas, T.Kerschner, A.Larrison, M.Sampson, C.Talbot; *High School:* V.Alimonti, L.Anderson, J.Bijas, E.Gieser, K.Posluszny, E.Soder, C.Willis, T.Yoselevich; *Irwin:* L.Bortono; *Lawrence Brook:* J.Peterson; *Warnsdorfer:* C.Chacko, L.Noppenberger

OFFICERS PRESENT: D.Zimbicki, M.Wildermuth, N.Comerford, B.Berzanskis, F.Taliercio

BUILDINGS NOT REPRESENTED: S.O.F., Bowne-Munro, Chittick, Memorial

I. CALL TO ORDER: President D.Zimbicki called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

- A. D.Zimbicki reminded the reps. to sign in, provide voice mail number/personal e-mail address.
- B. Distributions:
 - February Rep Council Minutes – via email to Rep Council members only
 - February Rep Council Update
 - MCEA Teacher Appreciation Member Benefits workshop – 2017 Teacher of the Year Winners & 2018 Governor’s Educator of the Year Members were sent invitations
 - Negotiations Update #4 (purple flier)
 - EBEA News Brief – Teacher Evaluation Advisory Team
- C. MailChimp communications:
 - February 28, 2018 – Chapter 78 Health Benefits
- D. EBEA Bulletin Board **[POST]** – Please be sure to display all postings on your updated EBEA Bulletin Board. Updates are sent to your buildings EBEA Bulletin Board Steward. **[POSTed]** items are reminders
- E. Guest Speakers:
 - NJ Worker Environment Council (NJ WEC) – Louis Kimmel, Director
 - Dave Vogel – Candidate for MCEA Treasurer
 - Jim Burke – Candidate for MCEA Treasurer
 - Francine Wilden – Candidate for MCEA 2nd Vice President
 - Noelle Ebler – NJEA Delegate Assembly
 - Lois Yukna – Candidate for MCEA President
- F. All members are encouraged to visit the EBEA website (www.my-ebea.org) frequently for pertinent Association information.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: As per the EBEA constitution, copies of the February Rep. Council minutes were distributed for review. C.Gregory motioned to accept the February Rep. Council minutes, seconded by J.Fessel. The motion passed unanimously.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT: N.Comerford distributed the March financial report and discussed the status of accounts.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Membership – A.Larrison, Chair

- Membership numbers include 827 certified staff members, 513 support staff members, 29 members on unpaid leave of absence, 71 rep fee payers, 22 new members, to a total of 1,462 in the bargaining unit.
- Members should also visit the NJEA website (www.njea.org) for valuable information, discount programs and monthly web giveaways. Members will need their pin (on NJEA card) and their password (usually the last four digits of social security number) to log in to both websites.
- Members were also encouraged to visit the NEA website (www.nea.org) for additional information and opportunities.

B. Newsletter – The Spring quarterly issue will be delivered in April.

- Information for future issues and announcements may be emailed to the Association at EBEA575@hotmail.com.
- The newsletter will also be available on the EBEA website under Events/Publications.

C. P.R.&R. (Grievance) – L.Anderson, Chair, reported on the status of grievances. Reps are reminded of the timeline (20 school days) as per Article III of the contract in order to initiate a grievance. If you are interested in becoming a member of this important committee, please contact the EBEA office.

- When in doubt about anything, call the EBEA office for clarification.
- Next meeting: 3/19/18

D. Educational Support Professional Council – L.Bortono, Chair

- Working on Dance for Students with Special Needs at EBHS for grades 9-12 special education students and informational session with guest speakers for parents (re: aging out of services; 4-5 speakers). Jolene Buckelo will be speaking about this at BOE meeting.
- All interested support professionals are invited to join this committee. If you are interested, please contact the EBEA office.

Next meeting: 3/19/18

E. Elementary School Council – K.Carle & J.Lyons, Co-Chairs

- Keycard issues – ongoing
 - Warnsdorfer – drips/moisture; March 1; no response
 - Conferences – wondering if you prior issues will repeat or are fixed
- If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in this committee to please contact the EBEA office.

Next Meeting: TBA

F. Government Relations – D. Zimbicki presented for C.Finnegan, Chair

- EBEA members attended the NJEA Legislative Conference on February 17 to hear from legislators and voice concerns over pressing issues.

- Oral arguments in Janus vs. AFSCME were heard in the Supreme Court during the last week of February; a ruling is expected in early summer.
- West Virginia teachers went on strike and won! They were offered 2% raise before striking and ended up receiving 5% for **all state employees**; “united we bargain, divided we beg!”
- Phil Murphy delivers his first budget address today; more information next month.
- More information on issues is available at NJEA.org. Use your membership card to access the members only section.
- Members are encouraged to visit the NJEA website (www.njea.org) and to read **The Review** to get the latest information on issues affecting all 4 employees. In addition, updated information is posted on the EBEA bulletin board.

G. District Wide Council (DWC) – M.Wildermuth, Chair

- Assessment Committee update – staff concerned about text security/reliability portfolio; teachers have to review tests with students after they are taken; discussion and suggestions about returning tests; concern about tests after a holiday and back-to-back tests; Task Force members were asked to survey colleagues before next meeting
- J.Crotchill said it is not practical to give keys to all staff members. Looking for an alternative solution
- Armed and compliant SSO’s – Will maintain SSO’s and assess at the end of the year; all slots have been filled; marked police car in all parking lots.
- Clocks that don’t keep time; looking into a possible Wi-Fi solution.

H. Nominations – J.Fessel

Candidate for President: Dana Zimbicki

Candidate for Treasurer: Jenna Lyons

Candidates for MCEA Representative Delegates: Leslie Anderson, Lucy Bortono, Lori Krantz Fitter, Sara Tobias, Theresa Yoselevich, Michael Wildermuth

Candidates for NEA Representative Assembly: Valerie Alimonti, Leslie Anderson, Marilyn Ryan Weeks, Michael Wildermuth, Cheryll Willis, Theresa Yoselevich

I. Negotiations – D.Zimbicki

We have met four times with the Board of Education (BOE). We have three more dates on the calendar.

J. Teacher Evaluation Advisory – T.Yoselovich & M.Sampson, Co-Chairs

- Technology question has been added in to pre-post conference questions.
- Planning for summer staff development has started; there’s a concern that Title 2 federal grant monies are going to be cut so hybrid courses and summer workshops will be impacted.
- Funding for PD requests is low; Do not pay our money for a workshop prior to getting pre-board approval; also get approval before presenting at a workshop.
- TEAT newsletter has been distributed to all buildings.
- Encourage teachers to input their evaluation data into our EBEA Evaluation Database found on the www.my-ebea.org website.
- EBEA SGO writing workshops: March 22 – secondary certificated staff from 1 to 4:30pm; April 19 – elementary certificated staff from 4 to 7 pm at Pierre’s in South

Brunswick. Mike Ritzius, NJEA Associate Director of Professional Development, will lead the workshops.

- Our Teacher Evaluation Advisory committee is always looking for members. Please email Mercedeh Sampson at mkermanshahisampson@ebnet.org or Theresa Yoselovich at tyoselovich@ebnet.org if anyone is interested.

Next meeting: 4/11/18

K. Benefits Review – M.Haas, Chair

- Meeting moved to 3/15/18 due to snow day.
- Negotiated health benefits are as follows:
 - * Medical Provider: Horizon (Direct Access 10 and Direct Access 15)
 - * Pharmaceutical (Rx) – Prime Therapeutics LLC (Prime)
 - * Vision – VSP
 - * Dental – Delta Dental
- Employees are reminded to complete and return an enrollment form to the payroll within 30 days of the dependents birthday so they can be removed from the plan. Failure to report these changes will result in denial of health benefits plan changes until the next open enrollment. Effective 7/01/16, due to changes in the Affordable Care Act, all dependents covered under the district's plan will be covered through the end of the month in which they turn 26. (Prior to this change dependents coverage terminated on their 26th birthday).
- Reps. and members are reminded of the procedures in place for trying to resolve health benefits issues. Horizon should be called first with any problems at (800) 355-2583. Members should specifically state that they are participants in the Direct Access 10/15 plan. If there is no resolution, members can call Rita Mitchell at A.J. Gallagher (609) 430-4135 or Natalie Fenton (609) 430-4129. Members can also fax information to the EBEA office. Copies can also be sent to B.Giuliana, Business Administrator at the Administration Building.

Next meeting: 3/14/18

L. PRIDE (Partnership Results In Dynamic Education) – J.Bijas & V.Alimonti, Co-Chairs

- EBEA PRIDE: EBEA PRIDE/BOE *Learning Across the District* continues on 3/15/18 with Chittick's Wendy Tepper presenting their Virtual Buddy program, and Jolene Buckalo talking about the ESPs PRIDE sponsored Dance for Students with Special Needs (4/26/18 at EBHS).
- EBEA PRIDE: On April 12, Warnsdorfer and Bowne-Munro are presenting Google Expedition (virtual field trips).
- EBEA PRIDE: On April 25, PRIDE is sponsoring the Boys Volleyball Fundraising game for FSH (a form of muscular dystrophy).
- EBEA PRIDE: *EBEA Bear Necessities Clothing Den* – the Grand Opening is Saturday, April 14, 2018, with a Open House Preview on Wednesday, April 11th.

M. Public Relations – L.Noppenberger, Chair

- We recently spotlighted Jessica Acosta, Warnsdorfer, for her experience and work with Make-A-Wish New Jersey.
- Coming up will be Michele Moore, Irwin, NJMEA Master Music Teacher of the Year and Erik Meyer, Warnsdorfer, NJ Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year.

Anyone interested in joining the committee are asked to email LNoppenberger@ebnet.org.

N. Support Operations Facilities – S.Miedowicz, Rep.

- No updates

O. Transportation – A.Montelfusco, Rep.

- Drivers were required to come in on a snow day to drive their routes to see what was passable.

P. Social Affairs – C.Talbot, Chair

- Top Golf event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28; 2 hours golf and buffet.
- Spring Social is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, at the Ria Mar in South River.
- Information coming soon on June 3 Racetrack event.

Q. Scholarship Committee – Cheryl Willis, Chair

- *Dine-to-Donate* planned for all day March 20, MJ's in Spotswood; present flyer and the Scholarship funds will receive 15% of all sales.
- *Dine-to-Donate* planned for April 16, from 4 to 8 PM at Panera Bread, East Brunswick Square Mall; present flyer and the Scholarship funds will receive 20% of all sales.
- EBFA Scholarship Awards will be awarded in June (EBFA Philanthropic Scholarship Award, EBFA Shelli Fishman Memorial Award, and MCEA/EBFA Paul Dimitriadis Scholarship Award.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. EBFA Events/Opportunities:

- EBFA PRIDE: EBFA PRIDE/BOE Presentations were represented on 2/15/18 by Frost Elementary School staff with presentations from Kerri Adkins, Vickie Albert, Lisa Barry, Donna Rynone, Allison Servidio, Arthur Tippin and Jill Ursino.
- EBFA Social: *Bowl-A-Rama* was held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at Bowlero, North Brunswick. (25) EBFA members were in attendance.

B. NJEA Events/Opportunities:

- NJEA Conference: *Walter J. O'Brien Legislative & Political Action Conference* was held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at the Doubletree Somerset Hotel, Somerset. (4) EBFA members were in attendance.

C. MCEA Events/Opportunities:

- MCEA Workshop: MCEA Joint Overnight Conference was held on Friday, February 23 thru Saturday, February 24, 2018 at The Ocean Place Resort & Spa in Long Branch. A record number of (22) EBFA members were in attendance.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. EBFA Events/Opportunities:

- EBFA PRIDE: *EBFA PRIDE/BOE Presentations* – Thursday, March 15, 2018, 8:00pm; Chittick Elementary staff will be representing EBFA.
- EBFA Scholarship: *Dine-to-donate at MJ's Pizza Bar & Grill*- Monday, March 20, 2018; 11:00am-Closing; 19 Summerhill Road, Spotswood. 15% of food bill will be donated to EBFA Philanthropic Scholarship Fund. **[POST]**
- EBFA Workshop: *How to Write A SGO* – Thursday, March 22, 2018; 1:00-4:30pm and Thursday, April 19, 2018; 4:00-7:30pm; Pierre's South Brunswick. \$25 registration fee will be returned at the end of the workshop. Registration deadline 10 days prior to workshop date. **[POSTed]**

- EBEA Social: *Inside/Outside Golf* – Wednesday, March 28, 2018; Topgolf, Edison; 4:00-7:00pm. Members only. \$30 registration fee due by 3/14/18. **[POSTed]**
- EBEA PRIDE: *EBEA PRIDE/BOE Presentations* – Thursday, April 12, 2018, 8:00pm; Warnsdorfer and Bowne-Munro Elementary staff will be representing EBEA.
- EBEA PRIDE: *EBEA Bear Necessities Clothing Den* – tentative opening Winter 2018 within the EBEA office. Donations of slightly used clothing are being collected and can be dropped off at the EBEA office Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:00pm. Visit our webpage at my-ebea.org/bear-necessities-clothing-den/ for more information and to volunteer. **[POSTed]**
- EBEA Social: *Spring Fling* – Thursday, April 25, 2018; Ria Mar, South River. \$15 registration fee, for members only. Registration form and payment due to the EBEA office by 5/13/18. **[POST]**
- *Save-the-Dates: A Day at the Horse Track Social 6/3 or 6/10; District Retirement Celebration 6/6*
- **MailChimp**: If you have not received an EBEA MailChimp email from us, please sign in to your NJEA account and update your profile information at www.njea.org (you will need your NJEA PIN# found on your membership card, passwords are the last 4 digits of your social security #). This is the best way for your Association to communicate with you regarding private, important and contractual information as well as sharing upcoming happenings in your union.
- Please bookmark the **EBEA website www.my-ebea.org**. Any suggestions for the website can be directed to our webmaster, Janine Mirena.
- Please “LIKE” the East Brunswick Education Association *Facebook* page.

B. NJEA Events/Opportunities:

- NJEA Online *Webinars/Pension* – Dates: 3/22/18; Times: vary. Visit <https://www.njea.org/events/category/njea/> for more information.
- NJEA Online *Webinars/Degrees Not Debt* – Dates: 3/27/18; Times: vary. Visit <https://www.njea.org/events/category/njea/> for more information.
- NJEA Conference: *Exceptional Children Conference* – Saturday, April 21, 2018; Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch. Preregistration is required! View link for cost and early bird specials at www.njea.org/ecc2018. **[POSTed]**
- NJEA Conference: *Minority Leadership & Recruitment Conference* – Friday/Saturday, April 27-28, 2018; Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel, Iselin. Registration deadline 4/13/18 to NJEA **[POST]**
- **Save-the-Dates**; *Summer Professional Learning Institute*, July 11, 2018; *TechStock*, July 25, 2018; *Summer Leadership Conference*, August 4-10, 2018.

C. MCEA Events/Opportunities:

- MCEA *Black Tie Fundraising Gala*: Friday, April 20, 2018; Renaissance Woodbridge Hotel; 6:00-10:00pm. Benefiting Kiddie Keep Well Camp, a \$25 donation is requested on the night of the event. Register with EBEA if you would like to attend. **[POST]**
- MCEA Member Activities: *NJ Devils vs. NY Rangers hockey game* – Tuesday, April 3, 2018; 5pm bus departs, 7pm game time. **[POST]**
- MCEA Scholarship: *Paul DiMitriadis Memorial Fund Scholarship* is open to High School Seniors of a MCEA members. Application and essay due to MCEA by 4/6/18. **[POST]**
- MCEA IPD Workshop: *Autism* – Tuesday, April 17, 2018; MCEA office, 5:00-7:00pm. Registration form/\$50 fee due to MCEA by 4/10/18; check is returned at the end of the workshop. **[POST]**

- MCEA Workshop: *Teacher Appreciation Member Benefits* – Tuesday, May 8, 2018; The Grand Marquis, 5:00-8:30pm. Registration form/\$50 fee due to MCEA by 4/30/18; check is returned at the end of the workshop. **[POST]**
- MCEA IPD Workshop: *Digital Citizenship* – Tuesday, May 15, 2018; MCEA office, 5:00-7:00pm. Registration form/\$50 fee due to MCEA by 5/10/18; check is returned at the end of the workshop. **[POST]**
- MCEA Workshop: *XYZ's of Retirement* – Tuesday, May 15, 2018; The Grand Marquis, Old Bridge; 4:30 pm registration/5:00 pm seminar. Register NOW as this workshop fills quickly MCEA with a \$50 refunded check. **[POSTed]**
- Please see calendar of events/registration information for workshops by visiting the MCEA website at mcea.nj.org. MCEA is located at 622 Georges Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902; (732) 448-0004; unity@mceanj.org; www.mceanj.org
- **Save-the-Dates: Teacher Appreciation Dinner, May 8, 2018.**

D. District Information:

- *Save-the-Dates: District Wide Retirement Celebration* – Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Please join us! Sponsored by the EBEA, EBPSA and EBBOE.

E. East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF):

- *Partner in Excellence Dinner* – Tuesday, March 27, 2018; Pines Manor, Edison. Honorees include: EBHS alumnus and tony and Oscar nominated lyricist Glen Slater, Mayor Brad J. Cohen, EBEA President Dr. Dana Zimbicki and EBEF President Jack Levitt. Tickets are discounted at \$35 for EBPS staff.
- *Partner in Excellence Dinner Raffle* – Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$20 night of the event.
- *Grants:* For more information, visit the EBEF Grants webpage at www.EBEF.org
- Please *"LIKE"* the East Brunswick Education Foundation *Facebook* page.

F. Please send the following to EBEA:

- Faculty Meeting Dates – Needed from **Bowne-Munro, Chittick, Lawrence Brook, Memorial and CJHS.**
- Faculty Council Minutes from ALL meetings – Thank you Central, Chittick, Frost, Irwin, Warnsdorfer, HMS and EBHS for their minutes. **Still need from Bowne-Munro, Central, Frost, Lawrence Brook and Memorial.**
- Electronic copies of Principals' weekly Staff Bulletin – Thank you Frost, Irwin, Memorial, Warnsdorfer, HMS, CJHS and EBHS for sending them to EBEA each week. **Still needed from Bowne-Munro, Central, Chittick and Lawrence Brook.**

G. Next Rep. Council Meeting – Wednesday, April 18, 2018. **Please look for the Google Form link invitation in your district email account.**

VII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Rally & March for Works Memorial Day

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Move to adjourn by J.Lyons and seconded by T.Yoselevich at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Berzanskis, Secretary

BB/jm