

OEA Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2011
High school media center 4 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Present: Mary Bischoff - President; Michelle Swenson - Secretary; Leslie O'Meara - Treasurer; Mark VonderHaar - HS Rep; Jared Shogren - MS Rep; Joann Winters - EdMN Rep

Absent: Gayle Jonasson-IS rep; Keri Doyle, SE rep; Melissa Benjamin, uniserv rep.

2. Approval of August Minutes and general membership meeting minutes
approved

3. Adoption of Agenda
approved

4. Officer's Reports :

Treasurer's Report: The budget for 2011-12 is now online, as well as the check book update. Leslie will shortly be inviting people to be on the committee for the audit. After some discussion about our savings balance, Leslie will do research on 'savings products' (such as CD's) even if many do not seem to be offering much more interest than we are getting now from the savings account.

Secretary's Report: by-law vote passed on all 4 amendments. There was a (very) little confusion about what we were voting on and why, but overall it went well. Mary will put together an email for the reps to send to their building about the final vote.

Uniserv Report: Melissa Benjamin - no UniServ meeting since our last meeting; Mary asked Melissa to ask some questions at the next UniServ meeting about contract pieces-- schedule C, seniority lists.

Building Rep Reports

Mark: Teachers are upset about the Spartan Hour beginning in such a hectic manner. (Spartan hour is the new homeroom-like function that has been added in place of FLEX. Students are assigned to a teacher) Not too much can be done because of Homecoming happening so soon. Questions have been raised about special ed teachers not having students during spartan hour. However, two do have Spartan hours, and two have duties in other classrooms.

Jared: There are teachers who are teaching the same class where one teacher has more students than the other. The students are also changing houses, which is not part of the house system. There are concerns for educational integrity, and if this is what is best for students.

Gayle: (report from email) What is the difference in buildings for student contact time and duties? Does our contract say anything that we need to have so many student contact hours in relation to prep time or salaries? Do principals have the ability to schedule meetings before and after school or require teams/PLC's to meet so often?

Kerri: (report from email) Teachers are being asked to come in during the summer to check

class lists instead of them being ready before school is out. Can something be done about the principals not waiting until two weeks before school starts to have a general class list (we understand that there may be changes)? Could we get something like a letter of understanding for SE and IS and other buildings if needed so we don't have to use Prep time for PLC work? Prep time shouldn't be used for PLC time.

Negotiations Council Report/Negotiator Elections

We did meet Friday, September 9, to set the norms. Our next meeting is on the 21st. Schools around us are settling their contracts: Wayzata - 1.5, 1.15; Eden Prairie is similar to this; Columbia Heights - 2, 2. We have been talking about a way to get membership behind our efforts. Jo Ann mentioned a Local Contract Action Team (LCAT) may need to be established. There is also training available through Ed Minnesota for team members.

5. Unfinished Business

At the August meeting, Mary asked building reps to have monthly or bimonthly meetings with building staff--maybe 10 minutes at the end of a faculty meeting. A point to be shared at the building level: until the contract is settled we do not move a step on the pay scale. This may be your 11th year, but you will be paid at the 10th step until a contract is finalized.

ATPPS money should be paid soon.

6. New Business:

Legislative changes posted to web page. There are many changes to statute: Teacher contact time is now figured by the hour rather than the day; there is no January 15 deadline by which districts must settle the contract or be penalized. Many others--check out the link at the webpage oronooea.org

The seniority list will come out in October. Teachers should look at the seniority list to make sure everything is correct. According to our contract language, part-time teachers do not go on the seniority list. Discussion followed. Mary will plan with Kelly L. about language changes to be included in negotiations.

Trainings: MEA Ed MN workshop lists are online. School Law conference is November 3. With our membership in the UniServ, we get 5 paid spots. Political Conference is November 18 and 19 in Bloomington. Members rights training will be in Osseo on October 14. Sign-up is by September 27th.

7. Adjournment 5:30

