

FEA Representative Council Minutes
August 31, 2005

Present: Tom Avvakumovits, President
Jessica Branco, Vice President Greg Merrick, Treasurer
Jan St. Clair, Secretary

Site presidents: Peggy Kahn, CHS Laurie Turner, FHS
Jan St. Clair, HHS, Mike Williams, LHS Jon Fey, MVHS

Negotiating Team: Jon Stark, Danny Beaudry

Representatives: Paula Schineller for Kyle Fitzpatrick, Ed Puccinelli, Debbie Schmalz, Carmen Kinkade, Graeme Logie, Kyle Howden, Kimmie Marks, Rich Steffen, Kristin Kempe, Jason Heskett, Sheila Altmann, Lisa Ehresman, Brittany Stevens, Kristine Nethers, Ed Emling, Debbie Curley, Cheryl Vettel, Maria Carter-Giannini, Emmett Powers, Debbie Kumar, Maria Autran for Travis Hambleton

I. Secretary's Report: Jan St. Clair

Minutes of June 1, 2005, approved.

II. Treasurer's Report: Greg Merrick

Greg presented the report for the end of the fiscal year and the budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

III. State Council Report: Carl Schmidt

The measure to increase dues overwhelmingly passed at the last State Council meeting. Carl showed a video made by CTA that shows the need for the dues increase to battle the efforts of the governor to destroy funding to schools and threaten teacher due process, retirement system, etc.

Carl has two copies of the videos we can take back to our schools to show the teachers.

The dues increase is being used for television/radio ads, legal expenses, etc.

The increase cannot be for more than 3 years.

IV. Vice President's Report -- Jessica Branco

Coverage ends Sept. 1st for those who opted out of spousal coverage.

Lou's Village is closing so we need a new location for the Teacher Celebration Dinner.

V. Negotiations Report: Jon Stark

Financial Report:

The 4.9% will be restored in the Sept. 30th pay warrant. Early indications show that we may have an increase in property taxes. Computation will be done on the expense of the unit, increase in tax monies confirmed, and then we will know if there is money for a raise. The district is willing to give a portion of any raise earlier in the school year if the new revenue numbers are fairly firm. This is a positive change, primarily due to the new financial supervisor, Jeff Kiehl.

The team suggests that the team make their proposals and bring it to rep council and then have the membership vote on it. The rep council decides what goes on the ballot, e.g. block or percentage, should money become available.

The parcel tax passed last year accounts for approximately \$4 million that will restore the 4.9% and the step & column increases. It also avoided any lay-offs.

Negotiating topics for this year:

- Protocol procedure – making it more understandable to all.
- Process for “smoothing” the retirement financial impact since the number of retirees vary from year to year.
- Detailing the provision that allows for notching up the reserve amount if mutually agreed by district and FEA.
- The article concerning “Leaves” needs to be made comprehensible.

If any member has an issue for the negotiating team, he/she can bring it up to the team at any time. The team will discuss it and suggest the next step, whether to pursue, take to rep council, etc.

VI. President’s Report -- Tom Avvakumovits

• District Finances

Tom is cautiously optimistic that we have a chance for some extra money.

• Health Care billing

Tom is auditing the bills in order to eliminate names that are no longer in our unit or adult children who are no longer covered by the member.

• FEA Website -- what’s new?

Feamembers.org has much information:

Current CBA, Health Benefit info, Salary Schedule, Officers and Reps, and much, much more.

• Site Lunches for new teachers & reps and the site members.

The following are suggested dates. Site presidents will confirm with Tom A. directly.

MV Sept 13, 14
CHS Sept 15,16
FHS Sept. 20,21
HHS Sept. 22,23
LHS Sept. 27,28

- The FEA ADVOCATE will be sent out this week.

Dues: \$95 a month for 10 months.

FEA dues has not increased for three years, though expenses have increased.

- Political Action

Tom needs someone to be the Political Action Rep for FEA, attending meetings with county-wide reps. Our rep. Would report back to us of impending political action, e.g. T-shirt Day.

- Review of FEA Constitution –

One of FEA's goals this year is to review the Constitution and bylaws.

Jon Fey, Jon Stark, and Jan St. Clair have volunteered to serve as a committee to review this document. Reps were asked if they wanted to join this committee.

VII. Discussion: membership concerns, goals

Small Group Discussion:

What are your members concerns/issues/hot topics?

Tom will type up and share the concerns with all the reps.

VIII. Site Reports – site reports are an opportunity for site to share contractual concerns at their specific site.

CHS: Peggy Kahn

Action Item:

Waiver for change of SSDDay from Monday, Oct. 10, to Friday, Oct. 7.

Motion by Carl Schmidt to approve.

Seconded

Motion passes

FHS: Laurie Turner

Maintenance requests are still not completed.

Tom keeps a file. Send him any concerns you have.

HHS: Jan St. Clair

Extreme communication demands of parents that go beyond contractual requirements. Important to have admin support for teacher.

Book order from June have still not arrived. The district did not order until July.

LHS: Mike Williams

There is continued frustration and concern over maintenance issues. There is concern expressed over rumors of going to a web-based grading system

Tom explained that there is a new program called School Loop that teachers at CHS have been encouraged to use/pilot.

Some teachers have a concern that a teacher should have access to sites that are blocked to students. This may not be possible since both use the same server.

MVHS: Jon Fey

Issue over "when" teachers must take attendance. More specifically, should it be done at the beginning of the period? Sometime during the period? Or sometime during the school day? There will be continued dialogue at the site to discuss this issue.

IX Good of the Order**MVHS**

Aud. Is up and library may be completed on time. The grand opening will be Thurs., Sept 15, and be followed by Back to School night.

LHS

Staff is having a party this Friday.

HHS Extremely important that if you accept a student teacher you know that he/she has been placed by going through the district, your principal, and the specific dept. chair.

Book orders have not shown up yet.

New and 9th grade students cannot check out books due to code number assignment glitches.

FHS

Sept. 8, at 3:30 is the annual Watermelon Run. This long-standing tradition is a fun run/walk where teachers, students, alumni, and others partake in a 2.1 mile run. Watermelon provided for all at the finish. Staff members from other campuses welcome to join (it's free!).

CHS

No news today.

Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 14, Exec. Bd., 3:45 at the FEA office.

Sept. 28, Rep Council, 3:45 p.m. at FEA office.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Janet W. St. Clair, FEA Secretary

Cou