

BERGEN COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
210 WEST ENGLEWOOD AVENUE
TEANECK, NEW JERSEY 07666

**MINUTES OF BCEA COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

Executive Committee members present at the meeting: Bischak, Brady, Coppa, Coppola, Frangiosa, Goldman, Holz, Kelly, Lipoff, Luthin, Malattera, Meeks Manning, Otis, Policastro, Sheppard, Testa, Walsh
Presidents or representatives present from: Bergenfield, East Rutherford, Haworth, Maywood, Norwood, Oakland, Saddle Brook, Saddle River, South Hackensack, Teaneck, Wood-Ridge, Wyckoff
Executive Committee members present from (districts not listed above): BCC, Bergenfield, Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Glen Rock, Hackensack, Leonia
Other: UniServ

The Council meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Joseph Coppola, Jr., President. The minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting were accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Joseph Coppola, Jr.

A written report was submitted. Mr. Coppola informed members that this would be a brief meeting because the Nominating Meeting must begin at 5:15 PM. Mr. Coppola received a very nice thank you note from Ms. Marie Blistan, a candidate for NJEA Secretary/Treasurer for inviting her to our meetings. Mr. Coppola reported the director of AAA has sent him information that may be of interest to teachers for their students. He distributed the information to members. Mr. Coppola showed members the BCEA logo on the *Mini-Page* of the *Record* to thank BCEA for contributing to the *Newspapers in Education* program. Mr. Coppola reported that the August 31st Fiscal Report is the old accounting system. The statements from September and forward are our new accounting system. Mr. Coppola noted a date change: the School Election date is not Tuesday April 14th, it is Tuesday, April 21st. He reported that President of Bergen Community College, Jerry Ryan invited him to be interviewed on how decisions are made in Bergen County. Mr. Coppola announced the membership numbers are in and Bergen County membership is larger than 25 state associations at 19, 416. Mr. Coppola discussed a new member workshop for next fall. He also discussed a joint conference with Passaic County Education Association. He reported on Professional Development and he discussed Webinars, information is on the distribution table; he also reported NEA is working with congress on the new stimulus package. Mr. Coppola announced he has been sworn in to the Bergen County Police Chief's Association last Thursday due to his involvement with school safety.

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Bill Brady

A written report was submitted. Mr. Brady reminded members the Annual Legislative Dinner will be held on April 1 at the Venetian in Garfield, tickets will be \$60 per person. He requested each local send as many members as possible to this important dinner. Mr. Brady discussed the PRIDE campaign for April to get out the vote for school elections. Mr. Brady also discussed the PD plans which are due by February 16. He informed members of a new workshop that is in the works for Local Presidents, Local PD Chairs and School Based PD Chairs which will be held on April 28, 2009. Victoria Duff and Pam Garwood will be the presenters.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rina Goldman

A written report was submitted. Ms. Goldman reported the next *Reporter* will be an Election edition. She also requested articles for upcoming issues of the *Reporter*. Ms. Goldman reported the Human Relations workshop will be held on March 4, 2009; the topic will be *How Immigration Impacts Your School District and Classroom*, presented by Dr. Joan Rivitz. She reported there will be and PD overnight workshop on April 17 and 18. Registration forms are on the distribution table. The next IPD dinner workshop will be on Wednesday, April 29, 2009 presented by Cynthia Forster of the *Record*. The topic will be *Newspapers in Education – a Workshop for Teachers Through the Record and Herald News*.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dennis Testa

A written report was submitted. Mr. Testa reported there are four months of income statements on the distribution table, the reason for this is because these statements could not be released until the Audit for the last fiscal year were completed. Mr. Testa discussed health benefits. He also discussed Long-Term Disability for the officers to use deferred compensation for payment.

NJEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Joseph Coppola, Jr., Janet Bischak

Ms. Bischak informed members the committee meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

NJEA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning discussed NJEA Human Rights Celebration was a huge success with 782 in attendance. There were applications for NJEA Human Rights Award. It was a wonderful celebration, and if you missed it, you should really try to attend next year.

NJEA MINORITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning reported there will be a Minority Leadership Conference on May 8 and 9 at the Hilton in East Brunswick. She reported the BCEA Human Relations workshop will be held on March 4, 2009.

BCEA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATE COMMITTEE – Patricia Kelly, Howard Lipoff

A written report was submitted. Mr. Lipoff reported NJEA hired a new lobbyist, Sean Handley, who is a lawyer and formerly worked for the Principal's and Supervisor's Association. He discussed the deferred PERS payment will mean a future reduction in state aid to districts. He also reported a major concern is potential layoffs. Mr. Lipoff discussed new requirements regarding arrests and indictments (information was handed out). Ms. Kelly requested members email their legislators and ask them to oppose another pension deferral (information was distributed).

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

MEETING ADJOURNED – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.