

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

**MINUTES OF BCEA COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 7, 2009**

Executive Committee members present at the meeting: Bischak, Brady, Carroll, Celentano, Coppola, Frangiosa, Goldman, Kelly, Lipoff, Luthin, Meeks Manning, Otis, Policastro, Sheppard, Testa, Walsh  
Presidents or representatives present from: Carlstadt, Demarest, Hasbrouck Heights, Haworth, Maywood, Oakland, Palisades Park, Ramapo Indian Hills, Ridgewood, Saddle Brook, Saddle River, Teaneck  
Executive Committee members present from (districts not listed above): BCC, Bergenfield, East Rutherford, Englewood, Fort Lee, Hackensack, Leonia, Wood-Ridge  
Other: UniServ

The Council meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Joseph Coppola, Jr., President. The minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting were accepted.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Joseph Coppola, Jr.**

A written report was submitted. Mr. Coppola informed members of the many handouts on the distribution table. He also informed members of a website that may be of interest for elementary teachers; [www.apples4theteacher.com](http://www.apples4theteacher.com). Mr. Coppola reported at the last Council meeting the candidates for NJEA Secretary/Treasurer made brief presentations and he received a very nice thank you note from Ms. Marie Blistan. He also received a thank you from the Record for the \$5,000 contribution to the Newspapers in Education program. The Record will put BCEA logo on the Mini-Page of the paper for one month. Mr. Coppola reported the BCEA calendar for 2009-2010 is being worked on. He reported that BCEA has applied for a \$2,500 grant for workshops. Mr. Coppola was happy to inform members that Mr. John Kline, who was Bergen County Teacher of the Year for 2008, and also NJEA Teacher of the Year, has been selected as a semi-finalist for NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence. He discussed the following: professional development, accountability regulations, Abbott Decision, shared services and job fairs.

**1<sup>st</sup> 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. He requested each local send as many members as possible to this important dinner. He reported the next LAT meeting will be held on January 14, 2009. Mr. Brady reported on the side table there are registrations forms for NJEA's Annual Legislative and Political Action Conference being held on February 21 at the Hyatt Regency. Mr. Brady also discussed the PD plans which are due by February 16.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rina Goldman**

A written report was submitted. Ms. Goldman reported the *Reporter* is at the printers and will be in the mail next week. She also requested articles for upcoming issues of the *Reporter*. Ms. Goldman discussed the upcoming IPD workshop being held on January 16 and 17, and January 21. She also reported NJEA Human Rights Celebration will be held on January 17.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Dennis Testa**

A written report was submitted. Mr. Testa reported the Audit report has been completed. It is on the distribution table. Mr. Testa reviewed the report with members. Mr. Coppola called for a vote to accept the Audit. Ms. Carol Otis moved to accept, Ms. Donna Lee Sheppard, 2<sup>nd</sup> – So Moved.

Mr. Testa also discussed at length Health Benefits and Pensions.

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

A written report was submitted. Ms. Bischak informed members two reports are on the distribution table. The December 8 meeting was an emergency joint meeting of the DA and Executive Committee to discuss the dire economic straits of the state and take a position on the Governor's proposed steps to address the economic issues facing the state. All issues are outlined in Ms. Bischak's report. She reported at the December 15 meeting the President gave an update on PERS contribution legislation. She reported on Executive Director's report. The next meeting will be on January 9.

**NJEA WORKING CONDITIONS COMMITTEE – Marion Luthin**

Ms. Luthin reported the committee met on December 2. Ms. Luthin reported there are issues that are continuing for the committee such as: violence and vandalism reporting form, school health benefits, paid family leave and employee's rights and technology. She discussed an old business item; soldier protection action and military tenure issues. The next meeting will be on January 20.

**NJEA ESP COMMITTEE – Donna Lee Sheppard**

Ms. Sheppard reported the committee will meet on Monday and will be working on the upcoming conference to be held on February 27 & 28 for all support professionals. She urges local presidents to encourage support professionals to attend this workshop.

**NJEA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning**

Ms. Manning discussed NJEA Human Rights Celebration which will be held on January 17. At the celebration, there will be applications for the 2010 Human Rights Award. There is an award on the state and national levels.

**NJEA MINORITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning**

Ms. Manning reported there will be a Minority Leadership Conference on May 8 and 9.

**BCEA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATE COMMITTEE – Patricia Kelly, Howard Lipoff**

A written report was submitted. Mr. Lipoff handed out materials on numerous bills. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Lipoff then gave an overview of the bills and discussed NJEA's position on the bills.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None

**MEETING ADJOURNED** – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.