

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

**MINUTES OF BCEA COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 18, 2009**

Executive Committee members present at the meeting: Bischak, Brady, Celentano, Cobb, Coppa, Coppola, Frangiosa, Goldman, Holz, Kelly, Lipoff, Luthin, McBride, Meeks Manning, Otis, Papaleo, Policastro, Sheppard, Testa, Walsh, Wulster
Presidents or representatives present from: Carlstadt, Haworth, Maywood, Norwood, Oakland, Saddle River, Wyckoff
Executive Committee members present from (districts not listed above): BCC, Bergenfield, East Rutherford, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Franklin Lakes, Fort Lee, Glen Rock, Hackensack, Leonia, Teaneck, 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 February 4, 2009 meeting were accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Joseph Coppola, Jr.

A written report was submitted. Mr. Coppola congratulated Mr. Bill Cobb on being hired as a part-time consultant in Union County. Mr. Coppola informed members that the title of the Governor's Recognition Luncheon has been changed to Teacher Recognition Luncheon. It will be held at the Fiesta. BCEA along with Bergen County Superintendents' Organization will fund the luncheon. He informed members the NJEA 2009 Legislative Program is on the distribution table, along with many other hand-outs. Mr. Coppola informed members that Bergen Community College has two job openings and the information has been forwarded to local presidents to pass on to members. Mr. Coppola reported that the email that was sent out this week regarding the Legislative Dinner is accurate and there is a very strong possibility that Governor Corzine will be attending the dinner. He reported that the committee for consolidation, regionalization and shared services has been formed and he has been asked to serve on it. Mr. Coppola attended the Bergen County Police Chief's meeting and the chiefs have also formed a committee for consolidation, regionalization and shared services. Mr. Coppola discussed the economic recovery package at length. He commended Ms. Goldman and her committee on a very successful Human Relations workshop.

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. He requested each local send as many members as possible to this important dinner. He informed members of a new workshop that will be held at the Glenpointe Marriott for Local Presidents, Local PD Chairs and School Based PD Chairs on April 28, 2009. Mr. Brady discussed the PRIDE campaign for April to "get out the vote" for school elections. Mr. Brady also reported the BCPD committee has gone over all of the PD plans. There are still ten districts that have not submitted their plans. The committee will be meeting on the 20th of May.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rina Goldman

A written report was submitted. Ms. Goldman reported the Human Relations workshop was very informative, and also very successful. She informed members, that for those who will be attending the NEA convention, there will be a Human and Civil Rights Dinner on July 1. If you are interested in attending, please let Ms. Goldman know. Ms. Goldman reported the election edition of the *Reporter* is at the printer, and members should receive it by the 17th. She reported there will be an IPD 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*. The last workshop will be held on May 7th and the topic will be on 21st century classroom technology.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dennis Testa

A written report was submitted. Mr. Testa announced that he will be resigning the position of BCEA Treasurer as of September 1, 2009. Mr. Coppola will make a one year appointment to fill the remainder of Mr. Testa's term. Mr. Testa reported there is a flyer for the Park Ridge rally on the side table, please go and show your support. He informed members there are income statements for January and February also on the distribution table. He reported there will be an ESP PERS workshop on April 23. Mr. Testa discussed at length pensions and health benefits. Mr. Testa discussed the Long Term Disability. It was passed without objection that any officer that has been an officer for 25 years or more will have Long Term Health Disability Care for the officer and their spouse paid for by BCEA.

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

A written report was submitted. Ms. Bischak discussed the PERS pension deferral. She reported on a high school graduation requirement update; the Task Force with the DOE has removed the requirement for Algebra II. Ms. Bischak also reported on the Executive Director's Report regarding State Health Benefits.

NJEA INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE – Amanda Smith

A written report was submitted. Ms. Smith discussed revised standards at length. The Department of Education has opened this to the public for review and they are hoping to get feedback to assist in developing and implementing high quality standards. The revisions to the CCCS are based on what students need to be successful in the 21st century. All of the content areas have been revised but the stress remains with Language Arts Literacy, Math, and Science. The revised CCCS are available for review online at <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps>.

NJEA CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT COMMITTEE – Carol Feinstein, Susan McBride

Ms. McBride reported that she and Ms. Feinstein attended the NJEA Congressional Contact Committee meeting last Tuesday. That afternoon President Obama had made a speech and the committee voiced loud and clear their very strong objection as to what was said in the speech. The NEA contact person was also at the meeting, and seemed to be taken aback by the committee's objections.

NJEA URBAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Carol Feinstein, Susan McBride

Ms. Feinstein reported the committee met and they are planning a symposium of best practices for next spring. There is concern that many of the children in urban areas move a lot, and it seems they move in the middle of the year, and no records follow them. The committee also has been working on a pamphlet with activities, per county, with free or nominal fee activities that parents can do with their children.

NJEA WORKING CONDITIONS COMMITTEE – Marion Luthin

Ms. Luthin reported the Working Conditions Committee met on February 19. Some of the continuing issues the committee has are the violence and vandalism reporting form, paid family leave, and accountability regulations. She reported on a new business item being brought before the DA this week regarding military service.

NJEA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning discussed NJEA Human Rights Celebration was a huge success with 782 in attendance. It was a wonderful celebration, and if you missed it, you should really try to attend next year. If you have anyone you would like to recommend for the NJEA Human Rights Award, please fill out an application.

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 requested that members support the Future Educators of America. The committee is asking that all schools start a chapter of Future Educators of America.

NJEA MEMBER BENEFITS – Erland Nordstrom

Mr. Nordstrom discussed Prudential Disability Coverage and rates. He reported there is a new auto insurance coverage being offered, California Casualty, which is the NEA program. He also discussed the Wells Fargo, Wachovia merger. Mr. Nordstrom also reported on AIG and 21st Century insurance.

BCEA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATE COMMITTEE – Patricia Kelly, Howard Lipoff

A written report was submitted. Mr. Lipoff reported on the NJEA Legislative Conference that was held on February 21. He also discussed graduation requirements that are close to being approved. Algebra II has been removed from the requirements for graduation and in place of that is what is being called 3rd year of math that builds on concepts and skills of algebra and geometry. Mr. Lipoff reminded members to go out and vote to pass school budgets. If your school is on Spring break, please be sure to fill out an absentee ballot.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

MEETING ADJOURNED – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.