

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

**MINUTES OF BCEA COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 13, 2009**

Executive Committee members present at the meeting: Bischak, Brady, Celentano, Coppa, Coppola, Frangiosa, Goldman, Kelly, Luthin, Malaterra, Meeks Manning, Otis, Sheppard, Testa, Walsh

Presidents or representatives present from: Hasbrouck Heights, Haworth, Maywood, Norwood, Oakland, Saddle River, Teaneck

Executive Committee members present from (districts not listed above): BCC, Bergenfield, East Rutherford, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, 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 March 18, 2009 meeting were accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Joseph Coppola, Jr.

A written report was submitted. Mr. Coppola reminded members that if they are interested in being appointed to a BCEA committee to let him know since he will be filling vacancies, or if you are currently on a committee and do not wish to be reappointed, please let him know. Mr. Coppola reported new contracts were negotiated for the staff and he discussed the changes with the Council. Mr. Coppola discussed new programs. He made a request for a motion to donate \$500 for the Teen Arts Festival; motion moved by Ms. Janet Bischak, 2nd - Ms. Camille M. Coppa, so moved. Mr. Coppola discussed Summer Leadership. He also reminded members to send in the forms for certificates for their members who are retiring. NJREA has a form for retired members to join their organization. These forms can be found on the distribution table. He reported at the end of April the school superintendents received an updated school security incident report form. Mr. Coppola requested members fill out the forms for the updated information for their local association for the Leadership Book. Mr. Coppola reported BCEA has been named in a Will from a former Teaneck teacher. Mr. Coppola informed members that he has made a decision regarding filling the position of BCEA Treasurer. After discussing how he came to make this decision, he announced he has appointed Ms. Jennifer Celentano as Treasurer. Ms. Celentano is currently a Treasurer in Englewood. Mr. Coppola asked members to vote to concur with his selection of Ms. Celentano. Mr. Testa moved to concur with Mr. Coppola's appointment of Ms. Celentano, 2nd by Ms. Carol Otis, a vote was taken, and there was one abstention (Ms. Pat Kelly), so moved. Ms. Celentano thanked Mr. Coppola and the Council for their show of confidence and support for her, and promised to do her best to serve the membership.

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bill Brady

A written report was submitted. Mr. Brady reported the Legislative Dinner was a great success. The TPAF Convention is Saturday, October 24 in East Windsor, NJ. The delegates will receive a packet of information at the end of September, beginning of October. Mr. Brady reported the PD workshop on the 28th of April was very successful. He reported screenings were held for the primary election for legislative district 40, and Assemblymen Scott Rumana and David Russo were endorsed, and the NJEA PAC Screening Committee will endorse them as well. Mr. Brady reported he has received applications for the Summer Leadership Scholarship and he and the other officers will review the applications and make a decision as to the recipient. He also discussed PRIDE.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rina Goldman

A written report was submitted. Ms. Goldman reported there have been three IPD workshops since the last meeting, and all have been successful. She has met with the committee and they have a tentative schedule of topics for next year. Ms. Goldman reported the last *Reporter* for this school year will be mailed out in June and if you have anything you would like included in that issue, please let her know.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dennis Testa

A written report was submitted. Mr. Testa reported the process of developing next year's budget is underway. The budget committee will meet on May 27 and they will present the budget to the Council at the June meeting. Dues increase or decrease will also be announced at the June meeting. Mr. Testa discussed at length pensions and benefits.

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

A written report was submitted. Ms. Bischak reported on the Hipp Grant and Bergen County has three recipients of the Hipp Grant, the groups are from Westwood, Fair Lawn and Waldwick. The recipient of the NEA Foundation Grant is from Mahwah. Ms. Bischak discussed the rules regarding notification of arrest. She informed members of the BC vacancies on NJEA committees as of May 1, 2009. (This was also on the distribution table). If you are interested, or you know someone in your local that would be interested in serving on these committees, please let Ms. Bischak or Mr. Coppola know. The next Executive Committee meeting is May 15.

NJEA ESP COMMITTEE – Donna Lee Sheppard

Ms. Sheppard reported the committee met on Monday and there was a heated discussion at the meeting regarding the layoffs throughout the state. Ms. Sheppard discussed the Career Ladder program and thanked Mr. Coppola for all the work he has done to implement this program, working together with Bergen Community College, and setting a great example for other county presidents to follow.

NJEA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning reminded members to get in their applications for the Human and Civil Rights Award for NJEA. The deadline is October 1, 2009. She reported the committee has started planning the next Human Rights Celebration that will be held in January, 2010, and that is when the award will be presented. 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 MINORITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning reported the overnight on May 8 & 9 was well attended. The keynote speaker was Dr. Gilmore from NJEA Research, and he also did a book-signing. There was also entertainment. The committee presented a gift to Ms. Joyce Powell for her years of service.

NJEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Jennifer Celentano

Ms. Celentano informed members on the distribution table is a packet of information from the Professional Development Committee. Ms. Celentano discussed the contents of this packet. She reported there are good workshops opportunities available from NJEA, some of which are free.

NJEA WORKING CONDITIONS COMMITTEE – Marion Luthin

Ms. Luthin reported the committee met on April 21. She reported the item brought before the DA regarding military service tenure was voted on and passed. Ms. Luthin also discussed some of the continuing issues the committee has been working on; the violence and vandalism reporting form, paid family leave, and accountability regulations to name a few. She also discussed high school graduation requirements.

BCEA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATE COMMITTEE – Patricia Kelly, Howard Lipoff

A written report was submitted. Ms. Kelly informed members there is a packet of information on the distribution table. In this packet is a list of the NJEA positions on pending legislation. She suggested members read the bills and contact their legislators. She discussed the position statements on various bills. Ms. Kelly discussed election dates to remember. Ms. Kelly reported members are requested to take action regarding the overhauling of the Social Security System. She also discussed the New Jersey State Budget; Governor's Budget Message calls for a \$7.2 billion in baseline cuts in a \$29.8 billion budget. She reported the next LAT meeting will be on September 16, 2009 and the next GR meeting will be on May 20, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

MEETING ADJOURNED – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.