

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

MINUTES OF BCEA COUNCIL MEETING
January 6, 2010

Executive Committee members present at the meeting: Bischak, Brady, Bulger, Carroll, Celentano, Coppa, Coppola, Feinstein, Frangiosa, Goldman, Holz, Kelly, Luthin, Manning, McBride, Nordstrom, Otis, Papaleo, Policastro, Sheppard, Snyder, Walsh

Presidents or representatives present from: Carlstadt, Demarest, Edgewater, Hasbrouck Heights, Haworth, Northvale, Oakland, Pascack Valley, Ramapo-Indian Hills, Ramsey, Saddle River

Executive Committee members present from (districts not listed above): Bergenfield, East Rutherford, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Franklin Lakes, Glen Rock, Hackensack, Leonia, Mahwah, Maywood, Norwood, Teaneck, Tenafly, 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 12, 2009 meeting were accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Joseph Coppola, Jr.

A written report was submitted. Mr. Coppola reminded members to take the numerous handouts that are on the distribution table. He reported the mileage reimbursement was reduced to 50 cents a mile. He sent an email to all local presidents regarding Professional Development requesting them to pass it along to their School Based and Local PD members. Unfortunately, some of the links contained in the email are not working. Mr. Coppola has informed the Department of Education that the links are not working and they are working on the problem to correct it. Mr. Coppola reported on consolidation, regionalization and shared services. He also discussed at length the economy, homeland security and the health care bill. Mr. Coppola also discussed the *Race to the Top* meeting that was held yesterday in Trenton. After discussion, Mr. Coppola asked council to vote to oppose this bill. Ms. Carol Otis moved, Ms. Pat Kelly 2nd, so moved. A vote was taken and the bill was unanimously opposed.

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bill Brady

A written report was submitted. Mr. Brady reminded members the Annual BCEA Legislative Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 24 at the Venetian in Garfield. He discussed the BCEA & PCEA Leadership Conference Weekend that will be held on April 30 – May 2 and also the NJEA Legislative Conference which will be on Saturday, February 20. Mr. Brady reported the Bergen County Professional Development Board met in November and reviewed plans. They will meet again in April.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Rina Goldman

A written report was submitted. Ms. Goldman reminded members that she is always looking for articles for the *Reporter*, if anyone is interested in contributing, please let her know. She discussed the upcoming IPD dinner workshop on January 20 and the overnight PD Conference on January 15 and 16.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jenn Celentano

A written report was submitted. Ms. Celentano discussed the ESP Dinner Workshop. More than 400 people attended and she thanked everyone who helped to make it a great success. She reported she met with the auditors for the annual review and BCEA received a very positive review. She also reported that BCEA's web page on *Facebook* is up and running and she will be monitoring it very closely. Ms. Celentano reported that she will be meeting Mr. Bill Brady and the Constitution Committee on January 12 to review and make changes to the language of the constitution.

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

A written report was submitted. Ms. Bischak discussed the current status of Health Care Reform bill in Washington; the Senate version still contains the excise tax. NJEA and NEA. She reported there was an update on *Race to the Top*. Ms. Bischak announced a retirement notice was received from Mr. Jim Geiger, Director of Uniserv effective 4/1/10. The next meeting will be on January 8, 2010.

BCEA ESP COMMITTEE – Fred Frangiosa, Donna Lee Sheppard

Mr. Frangiosa and Ms. Sheppard thanked the officers of BCEA, and especially Ms. Jenn Celentano, for the successful ESP Workshop.

NJEA LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE – Donna Lee Sheppard

Ms. Sheppard reported NJEA Winter Leadership North will be held on March 5 & 6 and they are requesting that if you live in north you attend here, not in the central or south.

NJEA ESP COMMITTEE – Donna Lee Sheppard

Ms. Sheppard reported the NJEA ESP Conference will be held on February 26, 27 and 28 and the ESP of the Year will be honored at that Conference.

NJEA AFFILIATION COMMITTEE – Fred Frangiosa –

Mr. Frangiosa reported two more districts would like to join NJEA. He reported that membership is increasing.

NJEA BUDGET COMMITTEE – Andrew Policastro

Mr. Policastro reported they had the audit last month and everything is in good order. They also welcomed their new Chairperson, Ms. Marie Blistan.

NJEA WORKSITE SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE – Kathy Snyder

Ms. Snyder reported it appears there is a strong push to get the temperature bill passed. She urged members to support the bill.

NJEA YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE – Patricia Wulster, Carol Otis

Ms. Wulster reported the committee is focusing on a bullying report. She also reported there seems to be an increase in violence among young girls in the last decade.

NJEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Jenn Celentano

A written report was submitted. Ms. Celentano reported the new template is now available at www.nj.gov/education/profdev/pd/teacher. She reported that members are encouraged NOT to volunteer to inject diabetic students if asked by your district.

NJEA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE – Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning reported the NJEA Human Rights Celebration will be held on January 16, 2010. Applications will be available to nominate people for the Human Rights Award which must be submitted by October. She requested that members look around in their local to see if there is someone that they can nominate for this award. She also discussed the BCEA Human Relations/Minority Involvement workshop that will be held on March 3.

NJEA MINORITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE - Betty Meeks Manning

Ms. Manning reported the Minority Leadership and Recruitment Conference will be held on May 21 and 22. More information will be forthcoming.

NJEA MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE – Erland Nordstrom

Mr. Nordstrom reported the committee had a presentation from the Buyers Edged representative. They have replaced the small business card that you received in the past with a new, more substantial card that is plastic. This was paid for by Kitchen Direct. He reported that Chase Mortgage will not be giving home mortgages any longer.

NJEA URBAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE - Carol Feinstein

Ms. Feinstein reported the committee discussed *The Race to the Top* and how it affects the different districts in New Jersey. The committee passed a motion to have the Research Department do a study comparing and contrasting charter schools and public schools. There is a symposium on April 17; it's a day of Best Practices. There will be approximately nine presenters, all teachers, and it's a day to come and share ideas.

BCEA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STATE COMMITTEE – Patricia Kelly, Howard Lipoff

A written report was submitted. Ms. Kelly requested members please make an effort to help in the area of government relations by contacting your legislators. At this time, it is the last 12 days of this legislature and there is still a race to STOP the Healthcare Bill as it is written. Now is the perfect time to organize your local and appoint a strong advocate and organizer as your LAT representative. There will be an important LAT meeting next Wednesday.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Rich Romains requested Mr. Coppola explain the nominating committee. Mr. Coppola went on to explain the process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mr. Rich Romains announced he will run for a BCEA officer position.

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