

## ARLINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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### Delegate Assembly Minutes

October 14, 2008

**Members Present:** Betsy Ablott, Arlington Science Focus; Donald Martin, Arlington Traditional; Marlena Dasbach, Rachael Dischner and Diane Sondheimer, Ashlawn; Regina Richardson, Campbell; Aldonia Cooper, Carlin Springs; Ninfa Perez, ESOL/HILT; Mark Waszczak, facilities; Laila Leikvold, Hoffman-Boston; John Tarpey and Cara Lamont, Jamestown; Theresa Cavanaugh, Jefferson; Leslie Stockton, Kenmore; Rosa Navas, Key; Kate Lawrence, Langston; Anne Malleck, Long Branch; Aimee Bough, McKinley; Helene Conge, Oakridge; Linda Forehand and Angela Lewis, Randolph; Margaret Lindquist, Stratford; Ricky Hamilton, Taylor; Erin Smith, Washington-Lee; Joyce Santoro, Williamsburg; Rob Farrell, Yorktown and Sue Zajac, AEA-Retired.

**Executive Board Members Present:** Eva Ingram, Career Center; Lara Heubusch, Carlin Springs; Vicky Robertson, Kenmore; Shawn Waddell, Stratford; Gerry Collins, Williamsburg; Anya Gan and Wanda Perkins, Yorktown, Shelley Jennings, President and Ken Reinshuttle, VEA Regional Director

President Jennings called the meeting to order at 4:15

Motion by Vicky Robertson, second by Sue Zajac to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

Motion by Leslie Stockton, second by Rob Farrell to adopt the minutes as written. Motion passed.

President Jennings reported currently there are 1506 members which calculates to Full Time Equivalent of 1341.5.

Treasurer Shawn Waddell presented the monthly financial report which was filed for audit.

President Jennings introduced Ken Reinshuttle, VEA Regional Director. Mr. Reinshuttle informed the delegates UniServ Director Lynn Clark was on an extended leave of absence and would not be returning. In the interim he will be serving as the AEA UniServ Director. Mr. Reinshuttle gave a brief oratory on his education and experience in the field of member rights. Delegates welcomed him to AEA.

Mr. Reinshuttle reported AEA will be conducting a membership campaign, TOO Campaign. Target of Opportunity. NEA had given AEA a \$5,000 grant to promote membership focusing on salary, 403B, Health Insurance and VRS Retirement, reporting there is sentiment in Richmond (General Assembly) to change VRS from a Defined Benefit to a Defined Contribution Plan. This will have an enormous impact on public employees' retirement benefits.

President Jennings reported VEA will once again be holding a free conference called SPARKS. It is for members with five or less years in public education. The purpose is to expose new members to the many benefits and opportunities available to them and to encourage them to participate in leadership of the association. The winter conference is being held at Wintergreen Resort. Please encourage your less experienced members to attend. Those who have attended in the past have found it to be extremely beneficial.

President Jennings reported on the "ParaPro" exam, stating all assistants will have to pass the exam by 2010. Mr. Reinshuttle stated NEA offers a book on the exam and there are free classes to prepare for the test. The Fairfax association offers classes in Spanish and Korean and is available to members of AEA if they desire to attend. All taking the test should be made aware the test is always in English. There will be two classifications for assistants. Assistants must have an Associates Degree or pass the ParaPro exam.

President Jennings encouraged delegates to register to be a VEA Cyber lobbyist, but to make sure you do it with your personal email and not the schools email. VEA will send information regarding all education issues coming forward in the General Assembly.

President Jennings inquired if any delegate or their members had difficulty in checking their online pay stubs. Some problems were reported. APS must offer a private place for those employees who do not have computers to check their pay stubs.

President Jennings told delegates to be sure and check out the businesses that provide discounts to NEA members and to inform their members. Business such as J Crew offer discounts and they add up in these tight times. Gerry Collins reported on the low interest rate credit cards offered through NEA and other delegates reported on the savings they had received on homeowners and car insurance. President Jennings told all to be sure and make use of all the benefits of membership. The discounts, etc more than pay for association dues.

President Jennings informed delegates Wanda Perkins, VEA Board member, Yorktown Delegate, etc had volunteered to be Vice-President to fill the seat vacated by Michael Mandel. Ms. Jennings asked the delegation to consider voting her in by proclamation as is allowed by the by-laws. Motion by Rob Farrell, second by Anya Gan to install Wanda Perkins as Vice-President. Motion passed.

President Jennings asked delegates to consider coming to the School Board meeting on October 30 to express employees concerns on their lack of participation in the changes to 403b and health insurance. Ms. Jennings stressed one did not have to speak but just to have numbers show up speaks loudly. Ms. Jennings asked all to inform their members and ask them to attend as well. The first twenty-five to sign up to attend the meeting will be taken to dinner beforehand. Call or email the office to register to attend.

President Jennings reported the TOO Campaign will target fifteen schools. Schools not targeted will be receiving mailings regarding the issues. Each targeted school will be visited twice, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. Posters announcing the date and time of each visit will be provided. Delegates of targeted schools are asked to assist in getting appointments scheduled.

President Jennings reminded delegates A-PAC the political committee of AEA would be conducting interviews of school board candidates. Membership in A-PAC is separate and apart from AEA and cost \$5 per year to join. Candidate interviews will be held at the AEA office on October 22, 2008.

President Jennings submitted the schedule for the TSA Information Sessions. All providers are offering mutual funds. You must sign a new salary reduction form prior to December 15. It is suggested that principals arrange for vendors to come visit the schools. Approved vendors have the right to be in work locations.

President Jennings displayed the APS Policy on Civil Leave regarding voting as long lines at the polls are anticipated and reminded delegates that if working the polls one must apply for Civil Leave. Dr. Hobbs has stated principals will be flexible in order to assist staff

Old Business Items: Elementary Conference days are inadequate to have meaningful parent teacher meetings. Second language parents need more time for a conference. The delegates' consensus is there needs to be more conference days allotted in the calendar.

The FLES program is creating some difficulties for special education teachers to get their lunch breaks, as they can't let their students to back to their regular class without their special ed teacher. Dr. Smith stated last year all students, including special education, were required to have foreign language in the FLES School unless a child's IEP specifically state there was a reason for a student not participating.

Instructional assistants expressed concerned they are not allowed time to plan with their classroom teachers and therefore, their assistance is not as well utilized.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.