



Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association
Minutes of WPSBA Board Meeting of February 10, 2011
Education House, White Plains

Present: Jackie Carbone (Yorktown); Ifay Chang (Somers); Linda Hillman Chayes (Scarsdale); Kelly Chiarella (*PTA Yonkers*); Amanda Curley (*Ossining*); Lisa Davis (*WPSBA*); Kendall Egan (*Rye City*); Frank Hariton (*Ardsley*); Rita Golden (*Mt. Pleasant-Cottage*); Rick Kreps (*Carmel*); David Lacher (*New Rochelle*); Rich LaFredo (*Mahopac*); Lynn McBride (*Mt. Vernon*); Jane Sandbank (*Brewster*); Anna Sterne (*Dobbs Ferry*); Linnet Tse (*Mamaroneck*); Susan Elion Wollin (*Bedford*); Karen Zevin (*Croton-Harmon*); Peggy Zugibe (*Area 10 Director*). Kelly Salzman (*PTA Mamaroneck*) guest.

Absent: Anita Feldman (*P/NW BOCES*); Lois Winkler (*Pleasantville*); Louis Wool (*Harrison*);

David Lacher called the Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. He noted he would have to excuse himself at 7 pm for a New Rochelle BOE Meeting and the meeting would then be turned over to Lisa Davis.

Introduction of Peggy Zugibe, Area 10 Director, Kelly Chiarella, PTA Representative and of Marguerite Guglielmo, new WPSBA Administrative Assistant.

Minutes: David Lacher called for a motion to approve the December 9, 2010 minutes. The motion to approve, made by Susan Wollin and seconded by Frank Hariton, carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The financial reports were presented by Rick Kreps. The 2009-10 auditor's report was reviewed and David called for a motion to accept and adopt the auditors report. The motion to approve, made by Rich LaFredo and seconded by Frank Hariton, carried unanimously.

President's Report: David Lacher spoke about the ongoing roundtable that includes WPSBA, the Westchester County Association (WCA) and the Municipal Officials Association (WMOA). He explained how schools, municipalities and the business community are sitting down to discuss, share, and educate each other in hopes of finding common ground for legislative action in Albany.

The second item of the president's report dealt with the recent Federal Relations Network (FRN) conference in Washington, D.C. which ran from February 6 to February 8. Several WPSBA board members took part including Lisa Davis, Kendall Egan, David Lacher, Rich LaFredo, Lynn McBride, Karen Zevin, and Peggy Zugibe. Briefings and meetings on Sunday and Monday prepared members for a day of lobbying. Tuesday, February 8, members attended a breakfast hosted by Senators Charles Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand and went on to meet individually with Representatives Nan Hayworth, Nita Lowey, and Eliot Engel. The main focus was the reauthorization of ESEA. Other items discussed were Race to the Top, Title One and IDEA funding.

Executive Director's Report:

Lisa Davis announced that 24 school districts have passed the recent Tax Cap Resolution to date. This was followed by a discussion of issues voiced by various school boards who have not yet adopted the Resolution.

WPSBA officers felt that school district membership dues should be frozen for the coming school year. There was a call for a show of hands for those in agreement. The decision not to increase

dues was unanimous.

The selections for this year's Nominating Committee members are Lois Winkler (Chair), Rita Golden, Kathy Brechner (P/NW BOCES), Karen Zevin, and Sara Cashen (Dobbs Ferry). The motion to approve the selections was made by Rick Kreps and seconded by Kendall Egan. It passed unanimously. Rita Golden requested WPSBA members who would not be running again to let the committee know so they could gauge the number of slots to be filled. Any suggestions for executive board member candidates should be forwarded to Lois.

The WPSBA School District Proposed Budget Survey will be updated weekly and released in PDF format again this year. Districts have found it helpful. Limited information (budget numbers) was shared with the press. In answer to a question by Karen Zevin, Lisa explained that the survey does include the current budget-to-budget tax levy. Jackie Carbone thought it might be helpful to know what the state aid is. Lisa agreed to post that as well as the final TRS numbers.

Lisa informed board members that LHEC Director Judy Wiener's husband is ill.

Committee Reports:

Board Development:

Karen Zevin reported that they had 2 programs, a Dine & Network dinner and a Board Officer's breakfast. People were discussing best practices and sharing open dialogue. Both were well attended and received positive feedback.

Current Issues

There was mention of a pilot or test group for bulletin board discussion on the WPSBA website. Kendall Egan noted that the budget season would be interesting and suggested that members write and reach out to legislators, sending numbers, facts, etc. Karen Zevin agreed stating that legislators at the FRN meetings requested information on how Race to the Top has affected districts in terms of mandates. Discussion followed on competitive grants, teacher evaluations, rewards based grants, etc.

Peggy Zugibe thanked Lisa for arranging appointments and meals in Washington. She also thanked the five people who agreed to be FRN representatives for the entire year.

NYSSBA will be sending out a survey next week to poll the membership. Peggy encouraged members to look for and take part in the survey.

The NYSSBA State Issues Conference (SIC) will be held in Albany on March 13-14. It is open to all board members and there is no registration fee. Peggy encouraged people to attend

Jane Sandbank reported that school administrators met in the morning to look at budget-to-budget increases and proposals. Districts are trying to get the tax levy between 2-4%. They are looking at reductions in staff, dismantling programs, or using some reserves. Everything is on the table including modified sports, retirement incentives, administrative furloughs, etc. They discussed creative ways to increase revenue while cutting spending. There was a strong reaction to Governor's budget cut and much misinformation. The focus should be on performance and fiscal prudence.

Emily Salzman reported that the PTA is doing legislative advocacy. They will have a program on March 12. More information will follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm

Minutes submitted by Marguerite Guglielmo