

**SPRINGFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
LEGISLATIVE BOARD MEETING**

June 9, 2011

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order at 4:19 p.m. by Tim Collins
- II. Approval of minutes of previous meeting  
**Motion** to approve the minutes of May 5, 2011 **Approved**
- III. President's Report
  - A. Updates on Legislative Budget, Health insurance etc
    - 1) The Senate bill on health care is better than the Bill in the House of Representatives. Teachers are encouraged to call state representatives and urge support of the Senate bill.
    - 2) Teachers may access information regarding the new evaluation procedures on the MTA website.
  - B. Ratification vote – there was a minimal number of members voting but the ratification passed significantly on the limited vote.
  - C. L Board training – Spring 2012 – there will be 2 mini sessions: 1) aimed at new L board members or general membership individuals who are interested in becoming building reps., 2) grievance training. Full L Board training is tentatively scheduled for March.
  - D. SEA Picnic – the turnout for this year's picnic was the best attendance.
  - E. Retiree Volunteers and NEA Foundation Coaches Recognition – the retired members of SEA were recognized for continuing to support the work of the SEA in the area of lobbying activities and the recent teacher swap which will be repeated in the fall, and for serving as coaches at KEYS schools.
  - F. Tornado Relief – Many locals of the MTA have reached out to Western MA. as to how they can support recovery efforts. It has been suggested that Mass Child should be the vehicle to coordinate disaster relief efforts for our students.  
**Motion** to accept the President's Report **Approved**
- IV. Recommendations from the Executive Board
- V. Issues
  - A. Fair and equitable team time – 40 minutes a day or the equivalent in secondary schools. Elementary schools have no team time language.
  - B. Status of school dept. budget – convocation was cancelled as it was a very expensive event. In place of convocation there will be a regular 7 hr. work day. New middle school is still on schedule to open. Next year's enrollment may be impacted if displaced families relocate out of Springfield.
  - C. Next year's teaching assignment should be given to teachers as soon as possible – may be last day of school.
  - D. Elementary paperwork – SEA will look into a recent memo regarding an increase in paperwork and final grading procedures.
  - E. Student Success Plans – The plans are a long standing policy. Tim will be attending a meeting regarding Student Success Plans. If you have concerns or suggestions regarding SSP, email Tim.
  - F. Overpayment – teachers who are laid off and experiencing a financial hardship

should fill out the required paperwork. The SEA is unclear as to how the district will respond to hardship appeals.

G. An emergency order has been placed by the district for fans.

VI. Vice President and Committee Reports

A. Bargaining - none

B. Grievance –several grievances were filed for: non renewal (2 were rescinded for failure to follow procedure); teachers required to prepare and present lesson plans for collaboration meetings should be paid for presentations; up to 6 other grievances may go to arbitration.

C. Committee of Political Education – see President’s Report

D. Professional Development – send receipts to SEA ASAP; if you do summer activity the application for funding will be completed in the fall.

E. Sick Bank – 148 days have been granted for 12 requests

F. Superintendent’s Committee - none

G. Election Committee - none

H. New Teacher Committee - none

I. City Wide School Centered Decision Making Team – the draft for the new handbook has been completed

J. Finance Advisory Committee – Budget

**Motion** to accept the budget as proposed **Approved**

K. Bylaws Committee - none

L. Minority Affairs Committee – EMAC Boston is trying to increase the number of minorities attending Williamstown

M. Scholarship Committee – Presentation of scholarships

N. Health and Safety Committee – 6/15 will be a day of lobbying activity – see Springfield Teacher

O. MTA Board of Directors – see written report

**Motion** to accept the Committee Reports **Approved**

VII. Treasurer’s Report

**Motion** to receive the treasurer’s Report **Approved**

VIII. Unfinished business – recognition of retiring SEA members

John Keegan – L Board

Carolyn Harris – E Board

IX. New Business -House Bill 28 – please urge state legislators to support the bill which would assist every child up to 18 with \$1600 per hearing aid. Many insurance companies do not cover the cost of hearing aids which may be several thousand dollars.

X. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 5:24 p.m. **Approved**

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Harris

Recording Secretary