

February 13, 2008

The February meeting of the Amherst Teachers' Association was called to order by President Scott Pecze.

Let it be noted that Wendi Lowe attended the January meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as corrected.

Diana Beetler gave the treasurer's report. The latest reimbursement funds were donated as follows:

members had \$1864.80 refunded to themselves.

AEF donations = \$241.92

Fine Arts donations = \$100.80

American Cancer Society donations = \$181.44

ATA checking account donations = \$80.64

Calamity Fund donations = \$221.76

Insurance-The next meeting will be at the end of March or the first of April.

Local Option-On April 1st there will be a dinner meeting at AJH. The topic will be about insurance. The speaker is Tim Bresnahan. People on the insurance committee will be offered the five seats first. If they don't want to attend the seats will be opened to all of us.

Social-Lisa Schenk reported that we can't have German's on the 6th of May. She is now checking a new date. Remember--the dinner is open to everyone. ATA will pay for all retirees' dinners and their spouses' meals too.

Spring social-Lisa is looking for a place where The Men of Steele can play. Any suggestions?? Some people are concerned about moving out of Amherst where parents and children aren't. Lisa is open to all ideas.

Old Business-Next year's schedule is:

AJH-7:30-2:30

Powers, Shupe 9:00-3:30

Harris, Nord-8:00-3:00

Steele-on their own because there is no busing

St. Joe's is still being discussed.

Citizens for Amherst will need help on election day with phone calls. [Contact Scott or the CFAS chair, Chuck Winiarski at \[chuckw@centurytel.net\]\(mailto:chuckw@centurytel.net\) if you can help.](#)

Super Search-Kathy LaSota from OSBA will attend an executive meeting of the board on Feb. 14th. She will make a presentation to them about applications received and which candidates she thinks will be good for Amherst.

Scott is still hopeful about our being involved in the interview process.

New Business-This information is very preliminary. Our treasurer is working with the district's attorney to make this information accurate. The IRS will be making some stipulations on 403Bs. Because we are a public entity, more control will be given to the school treasurers. Employers may be expected to oversee the plans and monitor transactions. The number of providers will be consolidated, and the methods used to administer the 403Bs will be limited as well. How will the providers be selected? The administrators will discuss this. Providers may be chosen because they have the most enrollees and are willing to provide the new methods that meet the plan that must be in place by January 1, 2009. You can, of course switch providers. Remember the facts are vague. The treasurer has stated the final regulations/expectations haven't been release yet, so it is difficult to plan. Ultimately the administration and ATA leadership will get together and pass the information on by January of 2009. More to come!

Background checks-250 school employees need to have a background check in 2008. If you haven't had one in several years, it will be your turn. Beth has the generated list, and all will be contacted by the building principals. What will the cost be? The Lake Avenue office will do it for \$56. If we bring decide to bring them to us, it could cost \$65. If that is the case, the board will pick up some of the cost. The financial end of this is still being discussed, but you will have to pay, at minimum, the \$56.00.

If there is something on your record, you need to explain to the Ohio Department of Ed. that you have been rehabilitated as outlined in ORC3319.39(E). According to the regulations, an applicant or employee must provide written confirmation of his/her efforts at rehabilitation and the results of those efforts. Then the district applies a "reasonable person" standard to determine whether the employment of such an individual "will not jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the persons served by the district." In doing so, the board may look at a series of listed factors, including the nature and seriousness of the crime, the extent of past criminal activity, the amount of time that has elapsed since the last criminal activity, evidence of rehabilitation, whether maintaining or employing such a person "will have a negative impact on the local education community," and "any other factors the district or superintendent deem relevant. For licensed employees, these are the same factors used by the Ohio Department of Education in determining rehabilitation when considering license revocation or other disciplinary action. The determination of whether or not an employee or applicant is actually rehabilitated and/or worthy of continued employment (or hire) ultimately rests with a board of education. Implementation of this a work in progress, but be aware it is coming.

Shupe-Union dues are disproportionate for para-professionals. Copy machine issues continue to plague the teachers.

Powers-Some teachers aren't happy with the fact that we have dropped our membership from the Educational Media Center. We don't have the technology, AND we don't have the money.

Nord-Pennies for Patients is taking too much time in their building. There are too many activities planned that take away from academics and the practice needed for testing.

**A discussion followed about too much fundraising which was an issue at the last levy time. Parents are against it. We are trying to pass a levy.**

Concerns about meeting times exist. The schedules don't allow for conferences held before and after school. Special ed. teachers really feel the crunch. Ideally comp time should be allowed. It is a money issue. Say no more.

AJH-Inconsistency and lack of severity of discipline still continue.

Gary Sooy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kim Obbey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned. Those in attendance were: Scott Pecze, Holly Miller-McGuire, Stephanie Boggs, Jen Henry, Diana Beetler, Kim Obbey, Lisa Schenk, Joe Mullen, and Sue Schneider.

**Tidbits:**

Wedding bells--**Kelly Karpinski and Dominic Pellitari** were married in Las Vegas. **Mrs. Pellitari** is an SGI tutor at Steele. Congratulations!

**BABIES, BABIES, BABIES-Congratulations to all!**

Christmas blessings.....Hmmmmmm!

**Tracy and Jeff Delmonico** had a baby girl. Tracy is one of the fine Language Arts teachers at Steele.

**Brett and Melissa Thompson** had a baby boy. Brett is another great teacher in the Language Arts department at Steele.

Madelyn Pamela has arrived. Her proud parents are **Amanda and Jim Sears**. Amanda is Nord's art teacher.

We hope Mommy and Madelyn are nice and cozy.

**Heather and Anthony Dick** are expecting their third baby. Heather is a Language Arts teacher at AJH. Hannah and Elliott are excited to meet their new brother or sister.

Kallie **Leimbach** is awaiting a new sibling too. Her mommy, **Brenda**, Shupe kindergarten teacher, and her daddy, **Jay**, are awaiting their second child.

Have a fabulous loooooong weekend!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Gambish, secretary