

January 16, 2008

The January meeting of the Amherst Teachers' Association was called to order by Scott Pecze, president.

Heather Large moved that the minutes from the December meeting be accepted. Laura Brogan seconded the motion. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as submitted. Diana Beetler gave the treasurer's report. It is attached.

Insurance-HSA cards have been mailed.

Local Option-On January 28th, a dinner meeting will be held at the jr. high's library. Kendal Frieze, a financial planner, will speak. If you are considering retiring in the next five years, you may want to go. Everyone is invited, but you must let Scott know, as the seats are limited.

Social-Lisa Schenk, our social director, reported that plans for the spring retirement dinner are in the works. Two days being considered are May 1st and May 6th. Reps were asked to find out if any important dates are spoken for in May. Last year there were gobs of conflicting events. The dinner will be held at German's Villa.

The annual spring bash plans are in the works as well.

Old Business-The much awaited meeting with Norm and Bob is planned for Jan. 24th. Next year's schedule and starting times will be discussed. Reps are needed from nearly every building. Please volunteer to share your feelings and ideas. This is a very important.

The Citizens for Amherst Schools are asking that all teachers are registered to vote, and they are counting on us to give reminder calls to voters who are for the levy but who maybe forgot to vote.

The meetings planned for the superintendent search were very poorly attended. We hope the end product of this process will prove to be positive. Kathy LaSota, the presenter, was amazed that the teachers in this district can continue to have testing results rated "excellent" when we have so little to work with and there are such stringent financial limitations.

Scott continues to push for ATA's involvement in the actual interview process when selecting the new super.

We would be most knowledgeable in answering and asking questions about this district.

New Business-This council wants members to be aware of the Calamity Fund. Originally we wanted a "sick day bank" to help those who needed additional sick days. When we were told we couldn't have one, the Calamity Fund was established. As of October 2003, a special savings account was set up by our treasurer. Donations exceeding \$2000 have been made! Referring to the minutes from the October 2003 meeting I quote, "The money in this fund would be primarily used for ATA members who run out of sick leave. Other uses for the money in the fund may be considered by Legislative Council (house fire, tornadoes, etc.) The committee further suggests that Legislative Council has the responsibility to make decisions on a case-by-case basis in terms of who qualifies to receive money from the fund and how much money they receive."

Shupe-It was reported that teachers were disgruntled with the inservice day on Jan. 14th. The fact that kindergarten teachers were grouped with 7th grade teachers proved to be unproductive when vertical alignment was the goal. The scheduled 2 1/2 hour work/lunch time was cut short by the second presenter. Plans to work on their lengthy report cards had been made.

The copy machine dilemma is ridiculous.

Powers-Feelings were expressed about the inservice too. Everyone was unhappy with the outcome--especially with timing and grouping.

The copy machine shortage is out of control. Teachers spend planning time standing in line waiting to make copies.

Nord-The north driveway is in dire need of repair.

Comments were made about the inservice day. It is felt that communication was weak about the afternoon plans. Some people weren't sure where to go or what supplies were needed.

One teacher didn't have anywhere to go. Student attendants weren't assigned either. They were paid to sit for the day.

AJH-There are many safety issues at the jr. high. It was expressed that there is no effort made to enforce the fact that AJH parents are not to drop off kids. By the time they are in the parking lot, and the Harris parents are in the parking lot, and kids are walking all around the parking lot, it is utter chaos--let alone when AJH teachers drive in and try to park.

Teachers were disenchanted with the inservice day, as well. Once again, remember to evaluate that day. Tell Scott.

Diana Beetler moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jenn Henry seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Those in attendance were: Suzanne White, Laura Brogan, Gary Sooy, Johana Bierek, Lisa Misson, Stephanie Boggs, Jennifer Henry, Diana Beetler, Heather Large, Scott Pecze, Lisa Shenk, Kim Obbey, and Deanna Walther.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Gambish

Tidbits:

Chris Odenweller is the bride of Owen Rarric. Her speech students will be following her calling, "Mrs. Wawic, Mrs. Wawic!" Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Rarric. Hear tell the wedding was fabulous.