

March 12, 2008

The March meeting of the Amherst Teachers' Association was called to order by President Scott Pecze. Diana Beetler gave the treasurer's report. It is attached. Stephanie Boggs moved that we accept last month's minutes. The motion was seconded by Lisa Misson. The minutes from the February meeting were accepted as submitted.

Insurance-The meeting will be held tomorrow. Wellness will be a major part of the meeting. Push wellness because eventually it will be important to us and our "pockets." Lots of people are taking part in the program, and it's benefiting many. If you have any questions, please submit them by tomorrow's meeting.

LPDC-Keep track of everything. Background checks, licensure fees, etc. are adding to the amount of paperwork. Don't wait until the last minute.

Elections-Linda Dolan at AJH is the chairperson, so if the building elections persons could please send back the ballots by Friday, it would be great. Scott would like them to be mailed before spring break.

Local Option-The April 1st dinner meeting will be at AJH with the speaker presenting his views on insurance. Scott will first ask our insurance committee members to attend. If there are any of the five seats we are allotted remaining, he will let us know. Then anyone can go.

Retirement Dinner-Our spring banquet, which will honor this year's retirees, will be held on May 1 at German's Villa. We have made a deposit of \$150 which will be applied to the balance. Lisa is waiting for a menu to be mailed to her. Once the names of the retirees are finalized, the people who know them best, can decide what to say about each person. Scott offered to give the usual speech, but the Legislative Council thinks Joe Mullen might be the best keynote speaker. Are there any other volunteers?? Kathy Koepp will help Lisa with retirement gifts.

The spring social will be held at Scorchers in Lorain. They were very receptive to letting the Men of Steele play there. More info will follow.

Old Business-Levy update-April 3rd will be the final day with the news about any of the votes that are "out there."  
Wouldn't it be great if we found the votes we need??

Superintendent Search- It has ended!! Steve Sayers has been chosen as our new superintendent. He will be welcomed to our little town at the board meeting at 4:30 on Friday, March 14.

Background searches were conducted yesterday in various buildings. Most of the reports of the process were positive. The board paid \$10.00 of the cost.

ATA was asked last year to sponsor a baseball team. Legislative Council discussed the matter and agreed that it would be a great public relations gesture. Deanna Walther moved that ATA sponsor a little league baseball team for the amount of \$250. Lisa Misson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Shupe-The teachers are still struggling with the absurd copy situation. Scott has asked Bob to have the principals look at Permanent Improvement money to finance copy machines.

Powers-The teachers at Powers have copy issues too.

Teachers are concerned about closing the grade books ahead of the end of the grading period. When it comes time to set up the new calendar, we are hoping that once the end of each grading period has been set, ample time will be available for the teachers to do their grades. The buildings' days for sending home the report cards should be able to vary.

Nord-The technology support position should be a paid position, not a discretionary fund salary. At the beginning of the year, the names for AR and Accelerated Math take lots of time to enter. The teacher in charge is also asked to help during planning time and may even be called out of her class while a lesson is being taught. Scott wants to negotiate this item.

Treasurer Diana Beetler confided that she needs a small file cabinet with a lock. She feels that all of the money and information she has should be kept in a safe place. Gary Sooy moved that ATA appropriate the funds to keep our treasurer's funds and records safe. Lisa Jeskie seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Can a tenured teacher be observed as many times as the administrator wants? Those on continuing contracts may be observed more than once per year but only have to be observed once every three years. The principal can observe a teacher more often if he/she has reason to. If you feel you are being observed more often than others working for your supervisor, let a rep know. You may not be singled out unless there is a reason for concern.

AJH-Communication problems still exist, but some steps have been taken to correct the situation.

Suzanne White moved the meeting be adjourned. Debbie LeSuer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned. Those in attendance were: Scott Pecze, Debbie LeSuer, Deanna Walther, Lisa Jeskie, Gary Sooy, Jennifer Henry, Stephanie Boggs, Lisa Misson, Diana Beetler, and Suzanne White.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Gambish,secretary

*Tidbits:*

*Not much is going on except for the Muenz family. Lisa and her husband, Jake, are expecting their fifth child! Lisa is a Small Group Instructor at Powers. She will be managing a LARGE group. We wish them only the best.*