

September 12, 2007

The September meeting of the Amherst Teachers' Association was called to order by President Scott Pecze. Lisa Misson moved that the May minutes be approved. Lisa Schenk seconded the motion. The minutes from the May meeting were approved as submitted. Treasurer Diana Beetler gave her report. It is attached.

- We need to replace retired Louise Timm as the insurance chairperson. We need reps from Nord and the junior high for Legislative Council.
- The insurance committee will be working on some new things for us to receive. They will be looking at needs and wants of our staff. The best web site to help answer questions is www.mybenefitscount.com.

Login:benefits@amherst.com password: benefits5

- LPDC hours must be approved and completed by Dec. 31. New teachers are included.
- NEOEA/OEA election will take place in early October. We will gather names of candidates before then.
- Local Option meetings begin Oct. 25th. The first dinner meeting will be held in AJH's library. The speaker and topic info will follow.
- Lisa Schenk will be the new social director. She will begin planning soon.
- Heather Dick, membership chairman, is nearly ready to complete her report. If you have any status changes, contact her.

OLD BUSINESS

- The 457 plan will help those soon to retire to defer your severance pay. Contact www.ohio457.org
- Discretionary funds are up for grabs. If you have a plan, approach your rep and your principal. The money is 9% of the base salary resulting in about \$3000.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lisa Schenk has officially be appointed as the social chairperson.
- IAT process committee-Scott Pecze, Holly McGuire, and Lisa Schenk will meet with Bob, Dan, and Greg. The plan drawn up by this committee will prove that teachers are intervening and have been intervening, which means everything will be written and documented before a student is tested. RTI (response to intervention) requires that all children are given different modes of instruction and that those techniques are recorded. All buildings want a common form to use, so that we all follow the same procedure. When records move from building to building, they will be easy to read, follow, and understand.
- There is an important election on the horizon. There will be a seat vacated on the Board of Education. ATA has decided that we will interview the candidates and provide the community with information. The government classes at the high school will become involved by posing questions developed in a television format and sent to our community. ATA will host an evening community meeting that will allow students and community members the opportunity to know the candidates. Holly McGuire moved that ATA hold a debate for the school board candidates in conjunction with the high school government classes, community members, and staff members. Diana Beetler seconded the motion. Scott will take care of the location and date.
- A mailing will be sent to residents to encourage three things: 1.) future leadership 2.) permanent improvement levy and 3.) financial means to maintain our current education level with an operating levy in 2008-2009.
- Steele-To answer a member's question, this year's calendar was decided three years ago.
- When placed the special ed kids were dispersed prior to the first of the year. Special Ed. teachers decided that the children were spread too far apart.
- Counselors and some special ed. teachers made the decision to put the students in a more concentrated environment so they would receive better services.
- Telephones are not made available to staff members. The contract says teachers are to be provided with a telephone in a private location.

- Nord-Questions about ATA dues-OEA added a one-time \$25 assessment to help pay for the issue on the November ballot that will call for a new way to finance schools.
- Harris-Special Ed. teachers have been told they will have to add a class for the five special ed kids at Harris. Scott will look into it.
- Powers has some air!!
- Shupe has a copy machine shortage. One machine can be used for the three grades. Debbie has provided teachers with a smaller copier, but it isn't capable of multi copies. Teachers stand in line during their planning times waiting to make copies. Scott suggested that Debbie has a back-up plan when the machine is down. Maybe copies could be sent out to one of the other schools like before.

Jen Henry moved that the meeting be adjourned. Stephanie Boggs seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned. Those in attendance were: Laura Brogan, Alex Baldwin, Gary Sooy, Diana Beetler, Lisa Misson, Jennifer Henry, Stephanie Boggs, Kim Obbey, Lisa Schenk, Steven Latto, Joe Mullen, Johana Bierek, Sue Schneider, Sue White, Deborah LeSuer, Scott Pecze, and Holly Miller-McGuire.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Gambish, secretary

TIDBITS

- Natalie Schneider, first grade teacher at Shupe, and her husband, Tom, Steele graduate, had baby boy Harrison in July. Congratulations to them and Grandma Holly.
- Elizabeth Tear Naro, Steele grad and teacher at Nord, and her husband, David, are expecting in December. What a wonderful time to have a baby! We wish them the best!
- Steele social studies teacher Michelle Webb and her husband, Tim, are awaiting the arrival of their baby. God bless. This is the best time of your life.
- James and Amanda Sears, Nord art teacher, are expecting their second baby. Our best to them. Even though you will be busy, it will be fun.
- Set aside Friday, Nov. 16th. It is tentatively our first social.

