

MEA Meeting - January 11, 2011

Organizational Structure: all buildings must communicate information to all members. Laura wants others to know what we are doing and how hard we are working.

Negotiations: Laura and Meg are writing Charlie a "nasty" letter about dates not being responded to by board. The PERC mediator has called and left messages. Laura and Meg want to assure the board is not dragging their feet. The team has been meeting on their own. Dates in questions are Jan. 26, Feb. 2, and Feb. 16.

Andy Update: Legislative - Christie update is don't raise taxes, but to budget especially education. Pension and benefits is an area he is putting pressure on his team with. He is asking us to pay up to 30% premiums and 8.5% on pension. Education reform propose merit pay, close failing schools and rid tenure. Some businesses can get vouchers. Cuts to state aid will be laid out next month.

There are no grievances at this time.

Public Relations: Troy is heading this. They are working on the ad for papers in Mahwah. Now there is a website for all to tell what's going on called the Mahwah Patch. We are seeing if we can get a link from the MEA website to this. The Chamber of Commerce has a wine and cheese spirit showcase. Do we want a table?

Should we update brochure and what about bulk mailing? Bill said do an ad first, then a brochure, third call to residents and say vote for budget for our kids. Troy said instead of a brochure, a postcard is better. Reminder vote and it is easy to read. The cost

is about \$850 one time mailing fee. Bill said we can do a one call. The benefits are we can create lists at only \$1.50 per member for a year, 10 cents per call. We might be able to use Pride money for this. Laura will check into that.

Each school needs to find out if the HSO has an electronic version of the directory. Say that the MEA is exploring this idea as well.

Bryan said the only way we can help with the vote is going to the HSO meetings and get absentee ballots. Kathy said we should do this in March for college kids also.

We MUST get into the HSO and follow through.

Winter Frolic - Feb. 11

Teacher for the Day: March 22 or 24...now change to April? A volunteer to teach our class for the day. They need to create a lesson plan. Kim and Mark Cacciatore will head this committee. Other people are needed to head this. Legally the teacher MUST remain the class.

Kathy update: the grant total for this year so far is 58,000 dollars. Please thank them if you have not. The foundation is annoyed with the administration and board. Love us due to our support. Foundation thought we were not filing our paperwork and now they see it is the administration. They are putting the pressure on them.

Lawsuit update: our lawyer submitted papers to show cause why this lawsuit should not be dismissed. It should be dropped because we have answered all the information efficiently.

Sharon - the treasurer has a new program and the new reports will be coming.

