



# EAST BRUNSWICK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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**TO:** EBEA Members  
**FROM:** Beth Berzanskis, EBEA Secretary  
**RE:** Representative Council Meeting Minutes – 9/7/17

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Administration:** D.Girgenti, J.Liberty; **Central:** K.Esposito, M.Fischer, J.Kroll; **Chittick:** K.Carle; **Churchill:** E.Crupi, K.DiNuzzo, J.Fessel, C.Jarosiewicz, N.Russo, K.Shanks, B.Shobe; **Frost:** G.Botwinick, C.Finnegan, J.Lyons; **Hammar skjold:** C.Easley, L.Fitter, M.Haas, T.Kerschner, A.Larrison, M.Sampson, S.Sullivan, C.Talbot; **High School:** V.Alimonti, L.Anderson, J.Bijas, K.Giambrone, E.Gieser, K.Posluszny, C.Scott, E.Soder, C.Willis, T.Yoselevich; **Irwin:** L.Bortono, A.Cintron, D.Sountis, L.Zaloom; **Lawrence Brook:** S.Showerman; **Memorial:** K.Parkinson; **Warnsdorfer:** C.Chacko, L.Noppenberger, J.Ruszala

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** D.Zimbicki, M.Wildermuth, N.Comerford, F.Taliercio, B.Berzanskis

**BUILDINGS NOT REPRESENTED:** Support Operations Facility, Bowne-Munro

**PRESENTOR:** T.Hayden, NJEA UniServ Rep

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** President D.Zimbicki called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM.

- A. D.Zimbicki reminded the reps. to sign in, provide voice mail number/personal e-mail address.
- B. D.Zimbicki welcomed the reps. and alternates for the 2017-2018 school year.
- C. Distributions:
  - Welcome Back Gift – EBEA Planners/Pens
  - Chief Building Rep – 10 Minute Meeting Packet
- D. Red A/R Handbooks
- E. Reps. are reminded to display all postings (emails, minutes, newsletter, etc.) on the EBEA Bulletin Board [**EBEA BB**] in their building (please remove old postings).
- F. Presidents Update:
  - Harvesting of Stakeholders Interviews occurred over the summer. We harvested approximately 1200 statements from our members which allowed for us to develop a clear picture of how our members feel.
  - Additionally, the blue surveys were also examined. We had 460 comments from the surveys which our Contract Proposal Team viewed while writing the contract proposal.
  - Contract Proposals will be exchanged with the Board this Fall.
  - Prudential open enrollment will begin this Fall. You can pick up a policy or change a policy without having a physical. The next open enrollment will not be until Fall 2020.
  - Rep Council Minutes will be condensed for distribution. Rep Council members will receive the full Minutes as in the past; however, all other members will receive a one page simplified version.
- G. All members are encouraged to visit the EBEA website [www.my-ebea.org](http://www.my-ebea.org) frequently for pertinent Association information.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** As per the EBEA constitution, copies of the June Rep. Council minutes were distributed for review. M.Wildermuth motioned to accept the June Rep. Council minutes, seconded by J.Lyons. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT:** N.Comerford distributed the June-September financial report and discussed the status of accounts.

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Membership – A.Larrison, Chair**

Thanked Dana Zimbicki and Janine Mirena who organized and hosted the New Member Luncheon in her absence:

- Agency Shop Letter - Please post on the EBEA bulletin board for 30 days.
- Dues Structure - Please review the annual dues obligation with new applicants. Employees who have not joined the Association by mid-October will be reported as non-members to NJEA. Non-members' obligations amount to approximately 85% of the annual customary dues obligations.
- Building Reps - Please post the names of all reps on the EBEA bulletin board.
- Members should also visit the NJEA website ([www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org)) for valuable information, discount programs and monthly web giveaways. Members will need their pin (on NJEA card) and their password (usually the last four digits of social security number) to log in to both websites.
- Members were also encouraged to visit the NEA website ([www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)) for additional information and opportunities.

**B. Newsletter – The October quarterly issue is in production.**

- Information for future issues and announcements may be emailed to the Association at [EBEA575@hotmail.com](mailto:EBEA575@hotmail.com).
- The newsletter will also be available on the EBEA website under Events/Publications.

**C. P.R.&R. (Grievance) – L.Anderson, Chair**

Reported on the status of grievances. Reps are reminded of the timeline (**20 school days**) as per **Article III** of the contract in order to initiate a grievance. If you are interested in becoming a member of this important committee, please contact the EBEA office.

**D. Educational Support Professional Council – L.Bortono, Chair**

Would like to invite all interested support professionals to join this committee. If you are interested, please contact the EBEA office.

**E. Elementary School Council – K.Carle & J.Lyonns, Co-Chairs**

K.Carle announced that the first meeting will be held in October (date to be announced) and if you are interested or know someone who might be interested in this committee to please contact the EBEA office.

**F. Government Relations – C.Finnegan, Chair**

Encouraged members encouraged to visit the NJEA website ([www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org)) and to read **The Review** to get the latest information on issues affecting all public school employees. In addition, updated information is posted on the EBEA bulletin board.

**G. District Wide Council (DWC) – M.Wildermuth, Chair**

Reported that the positions of Chair and Secretary of the Council alternate each year; this year, Danielle Ruggiero (Administration) will serve as Secretary and M.Wildermuth (Association) will serve as Chair.

**H. Contract Writing Proposal – D. Zimbicki, Chair**

Reported that the Contract Proposal Writing Team, comprised of 27 members, met approximately for 12 hours over the course of 4 days to review ALL the comments provided to us by the membership. The Contract Bargaining Committee will meet October 3, 2017 to review the proposal and vote on the final proposal language.

**I. Negotiations – D. Zimbicki, Chair**

Reported proposals will be exchanged approximately October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**J. Teacher Evaluation Advisory – Theresa Yoselevich and Mercedeh Sampson, Co-Chairs**

Invited members to the “Evaluate IT” workshop at the EBEA office on October 12, 2017 from 4-7pm. We especially encourage our new EBEA members to attend.

**K. Health Benefits Review – M.Haas, Chair**

- The Committee is planning another visit from the Optical Academy for EBEA members, family, and community members. Further information will be provided soon.
- Negotiated health benefits are as follows:
  - \* Medical Provider: Horizon (Direct Access 10 and Direct Access 15)
  - \* Pharmaceutical (Rx) – Prime Therapeutics LLC (Prime)
  - \* Vision – VSP
  - \* Dental – Delta Dental
- Employees are reminded to complete and return an enrollment form to the payroll within 30 days of the dependents birthday so they can be removed from the plan. Failure to report these changes will result in denial of health benefits plan changes until the next open enrollment. Effective 7/01/16, due to changes in the Affordable Care Act, all dependents covered under the district’s plan will be covered through the end of the month in which they turn 26. (Prior to this change dependents coverage terminated on their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday).
- Reps. and members are reminded of the procedures in place for trying to resolve health benefits issues. Horizon should be called first with any problems at (800) 355-2583. Members should specifically state that they are participants in the Direct Access 10/15 plan. If there is no resolution, members can call Rita Mitchell at A.J. Gallagher (609) 430-4135 or Natalie Fenton (609) 430-4129. Members can also fax information to the EBEA office. Copies can also be sent to B.Giuliana, Business Administrator at the Administration Building.

**L. PRIDE (Partnership Results In Dynamic Education) – J.Bijas and V. Alimonti, Co-Chairs**

- Building captains have received Back-to-School Night fliers for distribution.
- Many new PRIDE events are being planned this year – information will follow soon.

**M. Public Relations – L.Noppenberger, Chair**

Anyone interested in joining the committee are asked to email [LNoppenberger@ebnet.org](mailto:LNoppenberger@ebnet.org). Please complete the surveys you received in the “Welcome gift planners envelope” as we want to feature YOU in our newsletter and on Facebook.

**N. Facilities – D.Zimbicki, President**

Reminds reps. and all members that they must continue to monitor the cleanliness of the buildings and report any concerns. She reminded the reps. to make sure the proper procedures are followed when reporting problems. They should be reported to the head custodian, the building principal, and written in the custodial services book that is located in the school office. Please ensure a custodial services book is located in each office.

**O. Transportation - A.Montefusco, Chief Building Rep.**

No report at this time.

**P. Social Affairs – C.Talbot, Chair**

If you have any ideas for events please contact [CTalbot@ebnet.org](mailto:CTalbot@ebnet.org) or the EBEA office. Events to look forward to this year include the Winter Wonderland Dance, the Spring Dance, bowling, Monmouth Park Racetrack to name a few.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. EBEA Events:**

- EBEA SOCIAL: *Let's Go Fishing!* Was held on Monday, June 26, 2017. A picture perfect day and some good fishing was enjoyed by (20) EBEA members and their family members.
- EBEA PRIDE: *VFW Post #133 5k Run/Walk* was held on Sunday, July 23, 2017. Thanks to all our volunteers and runners for showing your support to our Veteran families.
- EBEA Workshop: *Executive Officers Training* was held on July 14, 2017. (20) leaders were in attendance.
- EBEA Workshop: *Stakeholders Interview Harvesting Workshop* was held on July 18, 2017. (12) EBEA leaders were in attendance.
- EBEA Workshop: *New Member Luncheon* was held on August 24, 2017. (88) EBEA leaders and certified new member attendees.

**B. NEA/RA Convention:**

- June 30-July 5; Boston, Massachusetts – (7) EBEA attendees: Valerie Alimonti, Leslie Anderson, Lolita Clyburn, Audrey Domond, Michael Wildermuth, Cheryl Willis and Theresa Yoselevich.

**C. NJEA Events/Opportunities:**

- *NJEA Jack Bertolino Summer Leadership Conference* was held during the week of August 5, 2017. EBEA had the most attendees with (27) EBEA leaders in attendance.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. EBEA Events/Opportunities:**

- EBEA PRIDE: *East Brunswick Day* – Saturday, September 23, 2017. EBEA had to CANCELED their involvement in this annual event due to low volunteer involvement.
- EBEA PRIDE: *EBEA PRIDE/BOE Presentations* – Thursday, October 12, 2017, 8:00pm; High School staff will be presenting. See EBHS PRIDE chair Conor Scott for more information.
- EBEA PRIDE: *EB Ed Camp Exit 9* – Saturday, October 21, 2017, Hammarskjold Middle School, 8:00am-12:00pm. This unconference empowers educators to maximize professional learning experiences and peer networks. Special sessions will be created with parents in mind! **[POST]**
- EBEA Workshop: *Evaluate IT* on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at the EBEA Office. A must workshop for all teachers who have not attended in the past. **[POST]**

- **MailChimp:** If you have not received an EBEA MailChimp email from us, please sign in to your NJEA account and update your profile information at [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org) (you will need your NJEA PIN# found on your membership card, passwords are the last 4 digits of your social security #). This is the best way for your Association to communicate with you regarding private, important and contractual information as well as sharing upcoming happenings in your union.
- Please bookmark the **EBEA website** [www.my-ebea.org](http://www.my-ebea.org). Any suggestions for the website can be directed to our webmaster, Janine Mirena.
- Please “LIKE” the East Brunswick Education Association *Facebook* page.

#### **B. NJEA Events/Opportunities:**

- *Teaching and Learning Symposium* will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the Hilton East Brunswick. Registration is online only: early bird rate \$30 before 9/15/16, \$60 after **[POST]**
- NJEA *Urban Ed Symposium* – October 20-21, 2017; 4:00pm-3:30pm; Princeton Hyatt Regency; Online registration only [www.njea.org/urbaned](http://www.njea.org/urbaned). **[POST]**
- NJEA *Jim George Collective Bargaining Summit* on October 27-28, 2017 at the Doubletree Hotel, Somerset; Contact the EBEA Office before 10/6/17 to register. **[POST]**
- NJEA *Convention, Atlantic City* - November 9-10, 2017. Visit [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org) for discounted hotel rates at (7) of the major hotels. More entertainment is being offered to all attendees this year. **[POST]**
- *Save-the-Date: Winter Leadership Conference*

#### **C. MCEA Events/Opportunities:**

- MCEA Activity: *Family Fun Day Picnic* will be held on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Merrill Park, Woodbridge (Grove #3) from 12:00 – 5:00 pm; FREE to all members and their families. Return registration form to MCEA. **[POST]**
- MCEA IPD Workshop: *Succeeding with Challenging Students for ESP* – October 18, 2017, MCEA Office. **[POST]**
- MCEA IPD Workshop: *Succeeding with Challenging Students for Teachers* – October 25, 2017, MCEA Office. **[POST]**
- MCEA Workshop: *XYZ's of Retirement* – November 13, 2017, Grand Marquis, 5:00 pm. **[POST]**
- MCEA PRIDE: *Socks & Toiletries Drive* – Collections will be accepted throughout the year at all MCEA events and the North Brunswick office as well as the EBEA office.
- Please see calendar of events/registration information for workshops by visiting the MCEA website at [www.mceanj.org](http://www.mceanj.org). MCEA is located at 622 Georges Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902; (732) 448-0004; <mailto:munity@mceanj.org>; [www.mceanj.org](http://www.mceanj.org)
- **Save-the-Dates:** *Fall Focus* 9/25/17; *Early Career Member Benefits Reception* 10/12/17; *County Overnight Conference* 2/23-2/24/18; *XYZ's of Retirement* 3/1/18; *Black Tie Gala* 4/20/18; *XYZ's of Retirement* 5/15/18

#### **D. NEA Events/Opportunities:**

- *NEA Retirement Program:* Offers retirement workshops to their members. **[POST]**

#### **E. East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF):**

- *EB Celebrity Dance-Off* – Sunday, October 15, 2017; JMPAC Hammaraskjold; Ticket prices \$35/\$25. Order tickets now to pick your seat by visiting [www.ebef.org](http://www.ebef.org)
- Please endorse EBEF during “Back to School” presentations if EBEF funded a grant in your classroom.

- *Grants*: For more information, visit the EBEF Grants webpage at [www.EBEF.org](http://www.EBEF.org)
- Please “*LIKE*” the East Brunswick Education Foundation *Facebook* page.

**F. District Events/Opportunities:**

- Disability Insurance Open Enrollment – A representative from Prudential will be in each building, please see your building supervisor for dates/times.

**G. Please send the following to EBEA:**

- Faculty Meeting Dates – Needed from all buildings.
- Faculty Council Minutes from ALL meetings – Needed from all buildings.
- Electronic copies of Principals’ weekly Staff Bulletin – Needed from all buildings.

**H. Next Rep. Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 4, 2017. Please look for the Evenbrite or Google Form invitation in your district email account.**

**VII. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Best wishes for a smooth, productive school year!

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Move to adjourn by B.Shobe and seconded by J.Fessel at 4:50 pm. This meeting was followed by a workshop for all building representatives and committee chairs. Uniserv Rep, Tom Hayden went over the crucial information all building representatives need to know. Though member participation, Tom demonstrated how to properly represent a member by completing act-it-out scenarios. Our workshop ended at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Berzanskis, Secretary

BB/jm