

SMEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Tuesday, May 2, 2006 – 4:30 p.m.

MEA Office

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Branch ISD Head Start:	Lisa Denbrock	ST. J ISD P:	Susan Meyer
Colon P:	Deb Allen		Thea Lowery
Constantine:	Laura Withers	Sturgis E:	Craig Evans
Marcellus:	Sandra Churchill	Three Rivers E:	Jeanne Pawlowski
	Bob Gendron	TRESPA:	Rea Brown
		White Pigeon:	Jacque Anderson
		MEA UNISERV DIRECTOR:	Denise Munoz-Pyle

MEMBERS ABSENT: BURR OAK; CENTREVILLE E; CENTREVILLE P, COLON E; GOCC; GOSSE; MENDON; NOTTAWA, AND ST. JOSEPH ISD E.

The meeting was called to order by President Jay Waddell at 4:30 p.m.

The Secretary's report was accepted as printed and placed on file.

The Treasurer's report was presented and reviewed. The report was accepted and placed on file.

New Business.

First reading of the following SMEA Policies:

1. SMEA Policy on Contract Ratification Vote – Moved by Jeanne Pawlowski, seconded by Susan Meyer to replace the original document. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

Nominations were as follows:

President	R.J. Waddell
Vice President	Deb Allen
Secretary	Sandra Churchill
Treasurer	Steve Barrus

Moved by Jacque Anderson to close nominations and to elect by acclamation, seconded by Susan Meyer. Motion carried.

Set meeting dates for 2006-2007

September 12, 2006	February 13, 2007
October 10, 2006	March 13, 2007
November 14, 2006	April 10, 2007
December 12, 2006	May 8, 2007
January 9, 2007	

Executive Board Retreat will be held July 16-18, 2006 at South Haven.

Old Business

Second reading of policy.

1. SMEA Mileage Policy -- Thea Lowery moved to accept mileage policy with mileage checked through MapQuest, seconded by Jeanne Pawlowski. Motion carried.

First reading of policy.

2. SMEA Naming Chief Spokesperson

A. Sample letter to Superintendent naming Chief Spokesperson

B. Sample letter to Superintendent naming pro-tem Chief Spokesperson

Motion by Jeanne Pawlowski, seconded by Susan Meyer to accept second reading. Amend with last sentence Changed to read: Seconded by Laura Withers. Motion carried.

3. MEA Mileage Policy – Motion to delete Cass E & ESP, Edwardsburg, Lewis Cass ISD E & ESP and add Branch ISD Head Start and Three Rivers was made by Thea Lowery, seconded by Craig Evans. Motion carried.
4. Proposed Policy on SMEA Naming Chief Spokesperson – Add “s” to negotiation, put comma after negotiation and after Spokesperson. Letters should have date change along with name of President.

MEA BOARD REPORT – Melissa Clapper, MEA Board Director gave an overview of her prepared report.

Steve Cook, Vice President – contact for membership on various committees.

MEA support for Debbie Stabenow

Privatization & Private Health Insurance appearing in negotiations

Deficit report – Twenty districts in deficit

MPERS – retirement plan Graded Premium subsidy. Meeting Friday to try and change policy.

MESSA – rates lower

--pension summit in June

-looking into online voting

AFL-CIO Partnership Agreement – tax to vote per member, per meeting. Budget approved and sent to RA.

OTHER—RA discussed Cluster Delegates. 300

MESSA REPORT – No report. Bonnie Brooks is willing to meet and provide information.

Uniserv Report (See handout)

The Grievance Report (handout) was reviewed and updated.

Uniserv Report (handout) was reviewed. Stressed the importance of screening candidates and supporting them. An upcoming training opportunity (Minority Involvement Program) is fast approaching deadline for registration (April 18).

Did you know? A Union Steward's action in signing the names of other employees on a grievance when there was not intent to deceive the employer is protected conduct under the National Labor Relations Act and may not be the basis of a discharge. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals held that its role is limited to determining whether there is substantial evidence for the decision of the NLRB. A hearing officer in this case made specific credibility determinations and factual findings that led to the conclusion that the union steward had not attempted to deceive the employer by signing the names of two other employees on the grievance. Under those circumstances, the Sixth Circuit Court was without authority to overturn the decision of the NLRB, even if the court may have reached a different factual conclusion. The court's decision made it clear that had there been a determination that the union steward was attempting to deceive the employer by forging the name of the other employees on the grievance, that conduct would not have been protected under the National Labor Relations Act.

Discussed the minimum wage increases and what impact they may have on school employees. P.A. 81, effective on March 28, 2006, raises the minimum hourly wage rate beginning October 1, 2006, to \$6.95; beginning July 1, 2007, to \$7.15; and beginning July 1, 2008, to \$7.40.

Local Reports

White Pigeon –Negotiations have not started.

Sturgis – Problems with a probationary teacher. A teacher is being sued over student accident. Conflict over transfer language.

TRESPA – Question of corporal punishment. Will be filing grievance. Will be starting negotiations with SNAP Bargainer, Renee Szurna.

ST. JOSEPH ISD P – Finished reading month. The Superintendent search continues with staff involved. Having a problem accessing the MEA office via the telephone.

Colon P – Voted on the tentative agreement. The two sides are having a hard time setting mutual dates to bargain.

Marcellus – The mediation process is continuing. They are supporting three (3) candidates for school board election to be held on May 2, 2006.

A motion to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. was made by Susan Meyer, seconded by Thea Lowery. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Sandra Churchill,
Secretary