

OCVTEA

General Membership Meeting

Toms River Center

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Call to order: The meeting of the OCVTEA General Membership was called to order by President Howard Polenberg at 3:10.

Quorum: There were 42 members present representing a full quorum. Normal business is able to be conducted.

Officers in Attendance: Howard Polenberg, President
Tom Vassallo, Vice President
Cheryl Orr, Treasurer
Tiffany Seeley, Secretary

Minutes: The minutes from the January 25th meeting were read.
A motion to accept the minutes was made by Laurie O'Donnell.
Second: Ray Walsh
Discussion: No discussion
Passed unanimously

Correspondence Report: The OCVTEA received notification that it is being audited concerning 2010-2011 workmen's compensation. Cheryl Orr filled out appropriate paperwork.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Cheryl Orr.
A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Ray Walsh.
Second: Mike McNamara
Discussion: Howard spoke about the PRIDE grant in order to raise more money for OCVTEA.

Passed unanimously

Standing Committees:

Public Relations: Tom Vassallo spoke of the OCVTEA newsletter and flyers that were distributed recently to ensure that general membership is receiving updates about meetings and OCVTEA information. Tom Vassallo also discussed the importance of providing non OCVTS email addresses to improve communication between members.

Social Graces: Sharon Clougher announced that the next general meeting would be a dinner meeting on May 23rd at 4:00 at 3 B's in Lakehurst. The end of year OCVTEA party would be June 1st at Hemingway's 6 pm.

Internal affairs: Ray Walsh had nothing new to report.

Legislative: Dennis Melia not present. Links on website if any members are in need of information.

Elections: The OCVTEA needs a parliamentarian. A discussion followed concerning that there needs to be a constitutional change to provide pay for the parliamentarian since they have to be at each meeting. Howard Polenberg would like one person from each center on the nominating committee to help disseminate information to building members without continually using building reps. Alice Infranco, Colleen Gordon and Michele Colon volunteered to be on the nominating committee. The committee should get word out to the general membership of positions and collect nominations for a vote in May.

Negotiations: There are seven people on the negotiating committee. They have already had a couple of meetings. The committee is working hard to cover all of the bases. They are researching all schools in Ocean County, as well as, other counties. They are comparing all aspects of our contract to other contracts. The committee is looking for workplace, monetary, and language gains in the new contract.

Andy Dennison and Ray Walsh attended a workshop on salary guides. These workshops opened their eyes to the necessity of preparation. There was a discussion about whether or not to share our research and eventual product with other vocational districts. Tom Vassallo suggested posting information on the website.

Constitutional: Nothing new to report.

Grievance: Tom Vassallo discussed a Family Leave Act grievance and member rights. Tom Vassallo impressed upon the membership that when considering a leave of absence, you should check with Howard Polenberg and Tom Vassallo before contacting the NJEA county office.

Another employee (non tenured) needs to take leave a couple of days before tenure is issued. There seems to be an inconsistency between board administrators concerning the appropriate action to take. The problem lies in that other schools use a "school calendar". OCVTS uses a "rolling calendar" (depends on hours worked). Tom Vassallo urged members to document any hours worked after school, on committees, grading papers, etc. All of these hours count toward the minimum hours required by the Family Leave Act.

It was also discussed that sign in sheets should have sign in time and sign out time. This issue should be brought up at building liaison meetings.

Professional Development: Eileen Verde will help disperse information to general membership regarding professional development and state mandated seminars.

Old Business: Liaison monthly meeting reports must be sent to Howard Polenberg and Howard will send the minutes to Nancy Weber-Loeffert. Even if there is nothing new to report, reports have to be written and sent to Howard. A question came up as to how to know exactly what should be included in liaison meetings. There is not a definitive rule of thumb for this. Building representatives and liaisons will have to take each case as it comes.

1.5% update – the OCVTEA lawyer will be speaking with the OCVTS lawyer. We are waiting to hear back about the meeting.

Howard Polenberg introduced the negotiations team. He explained that the team was picked because many of them were successful in negotiating stipends.

New Business: The OCVTEA needs to take advantage of what NJEA can offer. The OCVTEA will be offering more workshops to help inform general membership of rights and upcoming negotiating items. The next dinner meeting will focus on salary guides. The NJEA will reimburse 65% of the cost of each member that attends these workshops. The next meeting will be on May 23rd.

OCCEA has workshops and meetings. Howard would like to get new members involved by sending new members with veteran members to the

next meeting.

Good of the order: A question came up regarding any news on the governor's tool kit. Tom Vassallo explained that things will be quiet in this regard until after elections. Howard will continue forwarding NEA and NJEA newsletters as he receives them.

Eileen Verde announced that Aileen Hopper had recently passed and she requested that we recognize her at the meeting.

The OCVTEA will be changing some of the sunshine items. Cards will be sent for member accomplishments. Send information to Mary Bernyk so she can send a card.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Tom Rolston.

Second: Ray Walsh.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17.