

NCPTA Advisory Council Meeting

October 5, 2012

Attending: Jim Ellis – Chapel Hill/Carrboro, Brian Litke – Nash County, David Twiddy – Dare County, Scott Denton – Durham County, Robert Creech – Hoke County, Regina Denton – Wilson County, Dianne Grumelot – Cumberland County, Vicki Wilson – Cumberland County, Rhonda Fleming – Winston A Salem/Forsyth County, Carol Bowes, Person County, Keith Wilmot – Transylvania County, Charles McDowell – Moore County, Terry Campbell – Iredell County

Meeting Called to Order by President Jim Ellis. 10:03 AM. ITRE – Raleigh, NC

Treasurer's Report: Brian Litke

Brian handed out a printed Financial Statement. He and Jim went to SECU to get the approved check signatures correct and they found many past presidents still on the account. They discovered that it was possible to get a debit card with the account and they did so.

The financial statement was approved with a motion by Carol Bowes and a second by Charles McDowell.

Legislative Report – Scott Denton

Scott related that this election is very important and has ramifications for school busing in North Carolina as we know it.

One proposal in the legislature is that each bus has 300,000 miles before replacement.

Physical standards for bus drivers are an issue that has been proposed and is active. There is a new commissioner. Don Byrnes is going to schedule DMV time. We will wait until the new commissioner is in place to talk about Physical Standards with him.

Fuel Funding is already inadequate....remains to be seen where we will be with that.

Permanent Tag replacements were a surprise to all. Scott feels that it was added to a bill at the last minute as there would be no time for discussion or industry input. (This affects many industries besides school buses.)

The discussion highlighted how important this election is and how we need to keep on our toes and prove to legislators that we have standards in place for inspections, safety, cost effective programs, and willingness to try new things as they become available. (GPS) It was reiterated how important it is to be an efficient operation in every sense of the word.

Recognition Committee Discussion – Jim Ellis

Charles McDowell did it last year and he selected volunteers for committee. Jim asked Charles if he would do it again this year and he accepted and then accepted the volunteer help of Rhonda Fleming and Regina Denton.

There was some discussion about whether the award recipients needed to be alive or not for a couple of the awards. The son of the first president of the NCPTA has contacted Jim and asked him if his dad – Malvia Harris – could be inducted into the Hall of Fame. There was some discussion that perhaps

we needed to change the format of a couple of the awards and perhaps provide recognition of happenings during the year. The Web Site was discussed with some discussion about perhaps putting some of those recognitions on the website. We discussed whether we needed a Web Master ...the master would have to be a paid member....we pay ITRE to be hosted on their website. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Conference Update:

There were 461 in attendance at the conference in Dare County this year. The President and conference coordinator are in active discussion about next year's conference location. Beach and mountain locations have generally better attendance than other locations. Exception being the conference in Charlotte – however that was the one held after the summer conference was cancelled due to the economy.

There was an active and positive discussion about the conference.

We discussed that the schedule of the conference day is important and that we could have early classes starting at 7:00 and perhaps ending at 1:30. Early classes were definitely encouraged as the feeling was that we start our days early every day anyway.....we can start them early at the beach so we can get finished early every day. It was also felt that the general sessions would be better in the morning rather than the afternoon. Perhaps a class first, with a donut or Danish breakfast, and then the general sessions. Monday morning would be the first general session and Thursday morning would be the last general session. The paid classes could then be held in the afternoons after 1:30.

The discussion was tabled and Jim stated that a location for the next conference would be coming soon.

Service Pins:

Diane Grumelot is doing a very able job of handling the service pin database. She has requested a more precise way of making certain the years of service pins are correct. The discussion ensued about what would be the best way to track the members as they sometimes move from county to county, their names may be in three different ways in the database: Jim, James, Jimmy, etc. We came to a consensus that the members name attached to the last four of their social security number would be a dependable way to combine duplicated persons and to keep every member's years of service correct.

Trade Show Coordinator:

Jim announced that Scott Denton had been our Trade Show Coordinator at the summer conference for the last few years. (Scott mentioned that the trade show participants really enjoyed going up on stage to identify themselves.) However, Durham County has just given Scott Child Nutrition and IT on top of his transportation duties and he feels that his plate will be full with the other things he is doing. David Twiddy was Scott's assistant and he indicated he would be willing to go in as Trade Show Coordinator. Charles McDowell moved and Regina Denton seconded. David Twiddy of Dare County is the Trade Show Coordinator for the summer conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled on December 7, 2012 from 10:00 to 2:00 at ITRE.