

Minutes from QACREA Meeting – March 8, 2016

11:30 Visitation- Everyone hug and talk

12:00 Meeting called to order by President Richard McNeal. Madeline Hollis was asked to bless the food.

Following the luncheon of hot soup and deli sandwiches, the group was asked for input on food for future luncheons.

Dr. Williamson and Greg Pilewski shared their comments since they needed to leave. After offering greetings, Dr. Williamson expressed her appreciation to all for their past contributions, noting the quality educators who make up this quality organization. Support was a theme. We can help support you and you can help support the board and local schools by attending sports events and plays. Dr. Williamson expressed her desire to come back and share what's going on in the county,

Greg Pilewski, Assistant Superintendent, introduced himself with a slide show. He has been involved with transformational leadership, where we can get better together. The change he is interested in seeing is to improve academic outcome with an emphasis on diversity.

He noted the county is a great place because of its people. Our success is because of our consistent, dedicated leadership in people like Dr. Williamson.

He then mentioned several challenges he has identified. Time is an important challenge. There needs to be a switch from no child left behind to all student's success and the impact of that as the state interprets it. There are achievement gaps within the county. An academic steering committee has been established at SES. Teachers are trying to align to new standards. What's the purpose of assessment and what is the quality of it? There is a joint partnership with the sheriff's department due to a county wide increase in drug usage. Classroom teachers need additional support to meet the different demographics.

Dave Van Wyck asked for specific suggestions of ways retired teachers could help. Mentorships, connecting with the community and being willing to support the school system were mentioned by Greg Pilewski.

Pledge to Flag

Minutes-were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. As of yesterday, \$950 additional was added to the scholarship fund. The money collected today was not included in the total. The members were reminded to pay their monthly insurance bill on time even though the monthly statement might be delayed due to illness of Jennifer Bode.

Membership-Steve shared a recruiting brochure. Richard mentioned that we are trying to make everyone aware of what's going on in the state and how that is influenced by MRSPA and QACREA.

Legislative-Max Muller and Judy Zahren will both be retiring in July. There are four bills and the association's position on the bills posted on the website. The governor has approved full funding of the pension and catch up but it needs to be funded by the state legislation. There was concern expressed

over the Right to Die bill but it is doubtful that it will get out of committee this year. The Association is generally pleased with funding at this time. Locals must bear 50% of pension funding. Our insurance coverage is the best of the state. Richard has been attending Bd. Meetings to encourage a continuation of this level of support.

Pre-Retirement- Announcement was recently made that a pre-retirement informational meeting will be held in QA County. We want the QACREA to have a chance to be part of the program.

Necrology-There will be an In Memoriam Booklet. Richard asked for help in getting names of retired educators to be included. Mr. Zakarian is the only one on the state list at this time.

Scholarship- Scholarship applications should be in the schools. Richard will check with Jean to be sure they are.

Community Service-Jolly asked that contributions for the backpack project be brought to the June meeting since we don't meet until October. Jolly checked and found many groups are holding fundraisers for the No Child Hungry initiative.

One Room School-The painting campaign was put on hold when the weather got cold but it will continue. The school will reopen in April. We still don't have a door.

Tour and Travel-Linda said this committee never got off the ground. She plans to get information over the summer. In the meantime, it was suggested we tag on trips with Senior Citizen Centers in Grasonville and Talbot County. They publish trip lists and booklets.

Webmaster- The email address is QACREA.org. All old data has been cleared out and the contact page is updated.

New Business-Linda has informed the group she will no longer be VP. Anyone interested, let Richard know.

Volunteer sheets will be filled out again at the June meeting.

The group was asked where they would like to meet. Jolly checked with The Inn and they wanted \$400 to use the facility.

Additionally, the group was asked to suggest programs for future meetings. Possibilities were using the 4-H Park, having a covered dish luncheon or going to Fisherman's Inn. There were positive comments about the Christmas Party at CUMC.

Jack Smigo mentioned that he would be visiting Pat Biddle on March 17th for his birthday. He is a resident at Candlelight Cove in Easton.

Discussion at the end of the meeting centered on Dr. Williamson and the Board's decision not to renew her contract. Jolly encourage everyone to rally behind Dr. Williamson. Richard said he had written letters to the Board. There is a concern that the children's interests are not being taken into consideration.

Marge Felty, Secretary