



## Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2008 NJCFE General Membership Meeting at the NJEA Region 29 Headquarters, Hamilton Square, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 9:44 by President Evanko. Directors and Members present introduced themselves around the room.

Ms. Becky Winters reviewed the NJCFE treasurers report. Winters reported that she is preparing the 2008 financials for Mr. Norm Berger to audit. Mr. Berger does this at an extremely discounted rate in an effort to support financial literacy. Evanko thanked him and Winters for their great and outstanding work. The Treasurers report will be filed with these meeting minutes.

Ms. Carolyn Reynolds moved the minutes and they were seconded by Mr. Joe Grabowski. The minutes passed as presented.

In the absence Dr. Barbara O'Neill and Ms. Carole Glade, Evanko reviewed the NJCFE Grants Report and noted the large amount of money that the NJCFE has administered through grants. NCEE has provided NJCFE with a grant for the T3 project. O'Neill asked that the group discuss possible dates for the 2009 Teachers training. The general consensus was that the event be held on March 31, April 1 and April 2, noting that they are all weekdays.

Evanko passed around the newest edition of Edutopia with the cover story relating to financial literacy. She further noted how pleased she was to see that financial literacy continues to raise its profile.

Evanko reviewed the genesis of the NJCFE Think Tank. The group met as a result of the dramatically changing economic conditions and to review how the NJCFE can continue to grow and be more responsive to not only the needs of our membership but also to the changing times and the needs of the community at large. Ms. Carolyn Reynolds asserted that any changes that come about need to reflect the current bylaws and suggested that we carry forward as planned and make any changes or the development of new concepts for the organization correctly.

Evanko asked Mr. Alan Franklin to chair a committee to reach out to the Federal Regulatory Boards. They only deal with the entities they regulate, with all of the changes coming up; our group would be a great asset for them to reach the general public. Franklin suggested that this is a great time to move forward in this new direction. Evanko suggested that no one is a better fit than Franklin to handle this new project and that the Coalition Membership will look forward to hearing from him on his progress and plans at the next meeting.

Evanko noted that due to the current economic crisis, it is very possible that grant monies will continue to dry up, but that it is extremely important that the Coalition look at these current events in a positive light. This is an opportunity to work smart, to collaborate with others and to expand our contacts into new arenas. A discussion followed concerning the new areas of vital interest that have risen to the foreground as a



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result of the dramatic change in the economy in just the last 6 weeks to 2 months. It was agreed that what people knew a few short weeks ago....they no longer know. As a result, topics such as housing and other basics must now take center stage. It was further agreed that the Coalition is in a position to make a "real difference" during this difficult time. Ms. Evanko indicated that she believes the newly established Think Tank Committee can carry forward discussions on the role of the coalition through these critical times. Through identification of key topics and collaborators, appropriate methods of response, strategies for dissemination and marketing of information, combined with identified methods to generate interest on the part of the NJCFE membership to actively participate in the development of new resources, materials, activities and events, Ms. Evanko feels the Think Tank can be a true source of support to the Coalition in being responsive to the immediate needs of New Jersey residents. Evanko hopes the Think Tank will become a standing committee of NJCFE that will bring new and exciting ideas to the table for review and comment by the general membership.

Maryanne Evanko explained that an Officers' slate has been selected through a nomination process from the membership. The slate has been published to the membership and today the votes need to be cast.

Evanko reviewed each of the roles of the elected positions on the ballot starting with the At-Large-Member. A presentation was made by each of the At-Large-Member Candidates present Carolyn Reynolds, Donna Coons and John Dougherty. A presentation was made on behalf of Nancy Manchester in her absence.

Grabowski suggested that we expand the number of At-Large-Members permitted on the board so that all four candidates can be on the Board of Directors. Reynolds moved that we put the four candidates in pending required by-law changes. The motion was seconded by Grabowski. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Evanko asked that the unopposed candidates for the office of Treasurer, Kenny Lee, Secretary, Becky Winters, Vice President, Todd Zartman, and Maryanne Evanko spoke for herself as the Presidential Candidate.

Ballots were collected both from members present and from the internet so quorum requirements have been met. The slate carried.

Mr. Michael Drulis gave an update on the 2009 America Saves Grant Project. An application has gone in on behalf of NJCFE to run NJ SAVES week grant for \$1200 in cash and over \$5000 in in-kind services. NJCFE will receive a response on this grant application by December 1, 2008.

Mr. Kenny Lee and Ms. Gwen McCormack gave an update on the October 24 Methany/NJCFE Co-Sponsored Conference on Financial Literacy. Lee discussed the genesis of the event from his initial participation in NJCFE as a member of the Somerset Leadership Group and their collaboration with NJCFE in October 2007 to facilitate a Financial Literacy Conference for educators in Somerset County to an early 2008 entre to Mr. Sean Murphy, Vice Principal of the Methany School. A combined planning committee was established between the Methany School administration and NJCFE to develop a Financial Education Conference for teachers in ASHA schools within the



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region. ASHA Schools service students with special needs and disabilities. An interesting method of presentation was developed to meet the specific needs of these teachers. A special needs educator was paired with each presenter so that the information that the workshop attendees walked away with was of immediate value and adaptable to the needs of the students these educators serve. McCormack reported personally and on behalf of Murphy. She said that it was a great privilege to work with everybody and that he would like to start now for next year so that he can expand participants and presenters for next year. Ms. Evanko, who took the lead on the development of the program for this project, indicated that she was ready to get started immediately to plan an event for October 2009.

Evanko asked for members to draw their attention to the distributed 2009 meeting calendar. This calendar was based on a consensus that the meetings should be quarterly to save money on travel and gas costs and that at the end of 2009 the process would be reviewed to determine if it effectively fits the needs of the organization.

Drulis gave an update on the gross collections from the postponed 2008 NJCFE Awards Brunch. The Think Tank will be reviewing the event and considering how to move forward. Sean Murphy through McCormack graciously volunteered the Art Gallery facilities at the Matheny School in Pepack, NJ for the postponed event.

Evanko introduced Ms. Sandy O'Neil from the department of Education (NJDOE) and discussed how standards for education are put into place, particularly in this home rule type state. The NJDOE has requested that the NJCFE review the proposed Financial Literacy standards soon to be placed out for public comment, adopted and added to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Ms. O'Neil asked that Coalition members respond ASAP with suggestions, since timelines are short. O'Neil reviewed the summary/overview distributed to the members and discussed the points as presented. Members gave feedback and a discussion ensued. Mr. Dale Schmitt joined the discussion. Ms. O'Neil and Mr. Schmid were introduced to the Coalition as the individuals at NJDOE who will be responsible for Standard 9.4 – Financial Literacy, since the retirement of Ms. Phyllis Garnant in June 2008. Schmid discussed how these proposed revisions to the financial literacy standard is different from prior years. This plan allows for greater content inclusion that taps into the expertise that is already on staff at schools across the content areas making it almost anyone's job.

Schmid & O'Neil indicated that updated revisions and a feedback form to send comments via email at [dale.schmid@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:dale.schmid@doe.state.nj.us) would be forwarded to all Coalition members. Evanko will be emailing the updated version of the discussed document to all of the membership. O'Neil suggested that members review the document and respond with comments and suggestions.

Drulis asked members to grab their "NJCFE Goodie Bags" which included financial literacy resources and materials for distribution. Evanko thanked the NJEA for hosting the meeting, breakfast and lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 PM and lunch was served.

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by NJCFE Executive Staff Michael Drulis.