

**DSEA-R Annual Spring Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 9, 2008**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Registration:** 39 members attending

- I. Call to Order @ 10:31 a.m. by Norman Poole (DSEA-R President) followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of “God Bless America.”  
The following guests were introduced: Barb Grogg (DSEA President), Diane Donohue (Incoming DSEA President), Dave Craik (Administrator, State of Delaware Pension Office). Committee Chairs, Executive Board Members and Officers were also introduced.
  
- II. Remarks
  - A. Barb Grogg – thanked DSEA-R members for their continued commitment and giving.
  - B. Diane Donohue – also thanked DSEA-R members for their commitment. Gave special thanks to Norm Poole and Barb Grogg for their support.
  - C. Rudy Norton (DSEA-R advisor) and Yvonne Williams (filling in for Debbie Weaver) were introduced by Norm and thanked.
  - D. Stephen Smith gave a Power Point presentation on the new DSEA-R website ([www.DSEA-R.org](http://www.DSEA-R.org)). It’s a work in progress. Front page deals with what DSEA-R does. Other info: Committee Reports / Why Join? / Application to Join / Registration for Workshops, etc. / Questionnaire / Discounts / Calendars / Photo Gallery (coming soon) / Pension Plan.
  - E. Jack Polidori was to speak next, but hasn’t shown as of 11:11, so David Craik was asked to speak before the break
  - F. Dave Craik – pension fund rate of return for last year was 15.9% since July through February - 1.3%. No raise probable this year. An additional 12 million dollars would need to be added to allow a raise as of July. Health Care – 8% increase in cost, state will pick that up. Basically no changes for individuals. State will add an extra 9 million dollars to cover this. An additional 15 million has been added by the governor to the 2009 budget. This may or may not remain. Pensions funded by an irrevocable trust (can’t be used for anything else).
  - G. Jack Polidori – state has a real money problem. Revenues for state are rising. State will close the year in balance then roll the money forward into the next year. Next year looking at a 2.2% revenue. Looks like there will have to either be cuts or tax increases for next year. Education’s share of cuts will be approximately 80 million (250 million overall). #1 priority is to lock down health insurance. Priorities for education are: Continue

funding paras, fund retirement, increase starting teacher salary to \$40,000. Probably none will be funded and up to 1,000 layoffs will occur. Can't fund the country if we don't get out of this war. Because of election year, people reluctant to vote tax increases. In next week will file Charter School Bill. 9% of students go to charter schools. Charter schools don't look at demographics or redundancy of schools. New bill will address these issues. It will bring about contention because banks, stock houses, and law firms are making money from charter schools. A 1,000 student for-profit charter school has applied to be built in Christina. Will pull from 5 "superior" schools in Christina and lose funding for 50 teachers. New bill may be enough to eliminate this charter school.

•Elections – Saturday debate 9:00 – 10:15 a.m. All three gubernatorial candidates will be at the DSEA-RA to debate public education issues.

•Responses to Questions:

- 9 million would be saved by the state if state testing were eliminated, but state would have to reject all Title I money if they did that
- One of the biggest problems of charter schools is "cherry picking students," especially in the Charter School of Wilmington, where the best students go to charters and public school tests are lowered.
- Charter schools seem to recreate segregated schools.  
www.truthaboutcharterschoolsde.com is new website being created and opening soon.
- Won't attack charter schools but will talk about effect on public schools.
- Superintendents voted to support the Charter School Bill.

III. Invocation done by Carla Pyle (DSEA-R Vice President)

IV. Announcements

- A. Sign up sheet was passed around to attend Saturday morning debate. Be here by 8:45 a.m.
- B. Minutes of 2007 DSEA-Retired Annual Meeting were approved

V. Committee Reports

- A. **Membership Committee** – Barbara Bordley – referred people to membership report in packet
- B. **Communications Committee** – Rich Phillips – thanked committee members, discussed goals, newsletters, brochure update, surveys, presentations, website ([www.DSEA-R.org](http://www.DSEA-R.org)). Rich also thanked Barbara and the membership committee.

- C. **Activities Committee** – Dorothy Mack – Looking for volunteer committee members to meet (4 times a year): plan picnic, Christmas luncheon, annual meeting, and fellowship breakfast. Also looking for people to entertain at activities. Fellowship Breakfast on June 5, 2008
- D. **Legislative Committee** – Jim Testerman – Thanked Rich Phillips and Steve Smith. Testified before Joint Finance Committee. Feels neither retired no active teachers will get a raise, but benefits will probably be untouched. We should lobby to keep 15 million there to pre-fund medical benefits. We need to support DSEA candidates with money and help.

VI. Treasurer’s Report & 2008-9 Budget by Sonja Brown

<b>Checking Account</b>	<b>6290.09</b>	
<b>Certificates</b>	<b>6241.57</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12531.66</b>	
	10621.00	dues income
	<u>1225.00</u>	program revenue
	11846.00	total revenue
	11846.00	total expenses

Budget Unanimously Approved

VII. Report of Elections Committee by Linda Stigile

**Slate presented:**

Vice President: Carla Pyle

Treasurer: Sonja Brown

**Board Members:**

- Sussex County: Delores Price
- Kent County: Jim Testerman
- New Castle County: Rich Phillips

All were elected unanimously (with no nominations being made from the floor)

VIII. Door Prizes were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Submitted by Jeannie Beldyk-Byers, secretary