Minutes

JOURNALISM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Sunday, July 1 - Monday, July 2, 2007 Kansas State University Manhattan, Kan.

Note: These minutes are final.

CALL TO ORDER: President Jack Kennedy called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Jack Kennedy, MJE, President and Executive/Finance Committee chair

Bob Bair, MJE, Vice President, New Adviser Outreach chair

Susan Tantillo, MJE, Secretary and Awards Committee chair

Ann Visser, MJE, Past President/Convention Consultant

H.L. Hall, MJE, Past Past President/Convention Consultant

Linda Puntney, MJE, JEA Executive Director

Connie Fulkerson, JEA Administrative Assistant

Mark Newton, MJE, Certification Commission chair

Lori Oglesbee, CJE, Development/Curriculum Commission chair, Publications Committee chair

Anita Marie Wertz, CJE, Junior High/Middle School Commission chair

Norma Kneese, MJE, Multicultural Commission chair and Outreach Academy chair

John Bowen, MJE, Scholastic Press Rights Commission chair

Steve Matson, MJE, Region 1/Northwest Regional Director, Partnership/Endorsement Committee chair

Kathy Gaber, Region 2/Southwest Regional Director, Electronic Media Education Committee chair

Albert Martinez, Past Region 2/Southwest Regional Director and Partnership/Endorsement Committee chair

Gary Lindsay, MJE, Region 3/North Central Regional

Wayna Polk, Region 4/South Central Regional Director and Scholarship Committee chair

Brenda Gorsuch, MJE, Region 5/Southeast Regional Director and Administrator Outreach Committee chair

Tom Gayda, MJE, Past Region 6/Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Regional Director and Scholastic Journalism

Week Committee chair (carrying proxy to vote for Region 6)

Ron Bonadonna, CJE, Region 7/Northeast Regional Director and Membership Retention Committee chair

Linda Barrington, MJE, NCTE Liaison/Assembly Director

Julie Dodd, MJE, Scholastic Press Association Directors Liaison and Nominations Committee chair

Candace Perkins Bowen, MJE, JEA Listserv Liaison

Joe Nations, Ad Hoc Board Member

Absent:

Bradley Wilson, CJE, C:JET editor and Technology Committee chair

Betsy Pollard Rau, Region 6/Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes Regional Director

BOARD PROCEDURES...Puntney

Puntney reviewed procedures for booking and paying for travel and hotel and reminded board members JEA does not pay for meals or ground transportation. JEA will pay up to \$100 a day for a substitute teacher when necessary for board members to attend JEA conventions. Put appropriate budget code numbers on each voucher before submitting it.

CONTACT INFORMATION at JEA Headquarters:

- Puntney: JEA big picture, board expenses, overall convention and programming, JEA policy, spokesperson for JEA
- Fulkerson: convention timing/session scheduling, bookstore, membership
- Sharon Tally, JEA Office Manager: membership, certification
- Pam Boller, JEA Office Assistant: C:JET advertising, membership, scholastic press association dues, shipping
- Tour of Kedzie Hall and JEA Headquarters facilities...Puntney

REVIEW JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND ROSTER...Kennedy

Each board member will give additions and corrections to his or her job description to Kennedy. He will generate a new job descriptions document and e-mail it to Executive Committee members for tweaking. Next, he will e-mail that revised version to all board members for approval or additional changes. All revisions must be completed before the fall convention. Approval of the final job descriptions for 2007-09 will take place at the board meeting in Philadelphia without further discussion. Discussion generated a list of umbrella responsibilities expected of all board members whether elected or appointed.

ELECTIONS...Kennedy

Current bylaws say a plurality is necessary to win in JEA Board elections. Tantillo moved and Visser seconded to require 50 percent plus one of the votes cast to win a contested election for the JEA Board of Directors. In cases where this does not occur, a run-off election will be conducted between the two candidates with the most votes. Motion failed: 2 voting for and 12 voting against.

RUNNING AN EFFECTIVE MEETING...Sarah Sexton, Kansas State ag econ major with parliamentary meeting experience through FFA and 4-H. Sexton presented material via a PowerPoint, "The Rules of the Game: Fundamental Basics of Parliamentary Procedure." Matson moved and Lindsay seconded to give non-voting members of the JEA board the right to make motions in board meetings by adding this as a bylaw. Motion passed unanimously as amended. Gorsuch moved and Tantillo seconded to drop "by adding this as a bylaw." Motion passed unanimously. Gayda moved and Visser seconded to continue to record the name of the person seconding a motion during JEA board meetings.

Motion passed unanimously.

RECESS to brainstorm expanded participation of committees and liaisons.

Committees:

Administrative Outreach: Gorsuch, chair; Bonadonna, Nations, Matson, Wertz, Lindsay, J. Bowen

Membership Retention: Bonadonna, chair: Gorsuch, Tantillo

Partnership/Endorsements: Matson, chair; Hall, Martinez, Puntney, Nations, C. Bowen

New Adviser Outreach: Bair, chair; All Regional Directors (Matson, Gaber, Lindsay, Polk, Gorsuch, Rau, Bonadonna)

Publications: Oglesby, chair

ADVISER INSTITUTE/JEA MEMBERSHIP/ASNE ANALYSIS...Puntney

Puntney reported five advisers attending Sequence 1 of the Advisers Institute in Philadelphia this summer. She asked if the board wants to continue offering this sequence due to low numbers. Puntney distributed the JEA membership map showing membership totals by state and region as of April 4, 2007, and lost members from September 2000 to June 2007. Her report included analysis of memberships paid by ASNE from 2001 to present. Sixteen percent (152) of ASNE-paid members from 2001 to 2005 renewed. An additional 16 percent (152) of ASNE-paid members will expire in 2007. Sixty-eight percent of ASNE-paid members from 2001 to 2006 did not renew their memberships.

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION COMMITTEE REPORT...Bonadonna

Bonadonna distributed his "Overview and preliminary explorations" report. From a seven-year low in the spring of 2001 (2,196 voting and non-voting members) to a seven-year high in the fall of 2006 (2,558), membership in April 2007 is 2,400. He noted membership numbers appear to be relatively stable and increasing. He said no statistics exist at present to indicate the percentage of change in relation to renewals vs. new members. His recommendations include 1) forming a committee to prepare a report on procedures for regaining members: gather statistics on membership change of current members, suggest ways to distinguish between retaining members and gathering new members, suggest strategies to highlight the value of JEA membership and 2) stressing the role of State Directors in conducting annual follow-up of new members.

Recess for dinner

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH JEA JOURNALISM MENTORING PROGRAM...Dodd, Barrington

This proposal grew out of the Scholastic Press Association Roundtable in Denver devoted to the number-one problem identified by SPA directors: adviser turnover. The proposal requests the JEA board to give financial support to establish a mentoring program beginning at the Philadelphia convention in November. The money will provide funding for two mentors each from five states to attend the JEA/NSPA conventions for fall and spring of one year to participate in a mentoring workshop conducted by members of the Mentoring Committee. The program will expand to include more states during the three years.

Recess at 9:30 p.m.

Reconvene at 8:30 a.m., July 2, 2007

AP JOURNALISM UPDATE...Hall

Hall said he has been working on this topic for eight years. The three-year moratorium on new courses expires this fall; however, Trevor Packer, executive director of the AP program, is negative about the prospect of developing any new classes. Lee Jones, College Board director, is just as negative now even though he had been positive back in 2001. He said he is not against the class, just not starting new classes now even if the proposing group, such as JEA, has the development money – about \$1 million. Hall said if the course ever does happen, it will most likely need to be a mass media course for the broadest appeal. Matson said journalism educators need to work on selling journalism to principals for all the things we do well, especially since, as educators, we need to work with administrators. Oglesbee said in her district teachers are working to limit to four the number of AP-weighted courses one student can take per day. Kennedy said we need to come up with other ways to compete with the AP credit issue. Newton said Intensive Journalistic Writing prepares students to take the AP Language and Composition exam. Lindsay said his MJE project addresses this: "Advanced Placement English Language and Composition (with an Advanced Journalistic Writing Approach)."

Board members each received a copy of Lindsay's project. *Recommendation*: C:JET article about ways for journalism teachers to compete with AP course drain. Gather ideas from JEA members.

STUDENT PRESS RIGHTS COMMISSION CONCERNS...J. Bowen

J. Bowen reported members of his commission have voiced concerns about some JEA Bookstore materials containing vague language and inaccuracies pertaining to legal and ethical topics. In some cases this information runs counter to JEA codes, principles and policies. Recommendation is to discuss the materials with their originators and request revisions in the next printing.

BONG HiTS 4 JESUS...Kennedy

Kennedy called the board's attention to the opinion of Justice Clarence Thomas in concurring with the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in the "BONG HiTS 4 JESUS" case. Justice Thomas writes, "... the standard set forth in Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969), is without basis in the Constitution... I join the Court's opinion because it erodes Tinker's hold in the realm of student speech, even though it does so by adding to the patchwork of exceptions to the Tinker standard. I think the better approach is to dispense with Tinker altogether, and given the opportunity, I would do so." Consensus of the board was this atmosphere is larger than one single case. JEA needs a plan for quick response when legal decisions occur or when advisers face real or threatened censorship or when advisers face threats of removal from their positions. JEA needs to develop materials to help advisers know how to respond to those who threaten them. One suggestion was to involve past recipients of JEA's Administrator of the Year Award to help interpret legal decisions via the Administrative Outreach Committee. When court cases are being heard and a decision is eminent, JEA needs to be proactive about getting the official position in the public eye before the decision. Matson moved and Lindsay seconded the board authorize JEA to make a rapid response to First Amendment abuses when the Student Press Rights Commission chair and the JEA Executive Committee determine this to be necessary. Motion passed unanimously.

Newton moved and Visser seconded that JEA create a one-time national objective reporting, opinion writing and editorial cartooning contest specific to the recent Supreme Court "BONG HiTS 4 JESUS" decision with a postmark deadline of Oct. 29. Motion passed unanimously.

JEA MENTORING PROGRAM...Dodd, Barrington

Visser moved and Tantillo seconded that the JEA board accept the JEA Journalism Mentoring Program proposal and authorize up to \$30,000 per year for three years to fund the program. Motion passed unanimously. Clarification: This financial support comes with the understanding mentors will work to foster in their mentees an understanding of the First Amendment and JEA's position on it, an appreciation and understanding of the role of diversity in student media and JEA's position on this, use of effective teaching practices – all with a goal of the mentees becoming highly qualified teachers. Mentoring Program Committee: Dodd and Barrington, chairs; Peggy Gregory, Steve O'Donoghue, Nick Ferentinos, C. Bowen, Kneese.

DEFINE ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Consensus was to keep the definition as it is in "General Membership Information & Application" brochure: "This category includes individuals outside the field of education who have a strong personal interest in scholastic journalism. Yearbook representatives and Newspaper In Education managers are welcome to join as associates." JEA Bylaws say it this way: "Associate members shall be individuals outside the field of education who have a strong personal interest in scholastic journalism and a bond of sympathy with its aims including, but not limited to, professional practicing journalists in all media. Associate members shall receive all JEA publications, may participate in meetings and conferences, but shall not vote nor hold office nor nominate candidates, nor propose actions or programs."

ONLINE VOTING/CAMPAIGNING

Lindsay moved and Matson seconded that the Technology Committee investigate the feasibility and advisability of using online voting for our next election. The committee should prepare a report for the spring 2008 convention. Motion passed unanimously. Campaigning will be conducted as outlined by Dodd in her Nominations Committee report in Denver: To ensure fairness to all candidates in posting candidate information to jea.org, Dodd suggested the following timeline for the 2009-2011 election:

- By Oct. 1, 2008, all current board members indicate whether they will run again.
- Two weeks before the St. Louis convention, candidate names will be posted to jea.org. No other information will be posted there until
 after the convention.
- One week after the convention, bios and candidate statements must be submitted to the Nominations Committee chair. One week later bios
 and candidate statements will all be posted to jea.org at the same time. No statements will be added after this time.

REVISION EXPANDED PARTICIPATION OF COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS.. J. Bowen moved and Newton and Gayda (for Rau) seconded adding a Professional Media Liaison to JEA board membership. Motion carried unanimously. This is a non-voting board member, parallel to NCTE Liaison and SPA Director, serving as a link between professional media organizations and JEA. Kennedy will appoint the liaison as provided for in the JEA Bylaws.

"BONG HITS 4 JESUS" POSITION STATEMENT...J. Bowen

The press release is attached to these minutes. C. Bowen distributed it via e-mail to the following: NAA Foundation (Sandy Woodcock), Poynter Institute (Wendy Wallace), ASNE High School Journalism Project (Diana Mitsu Klos), RTNDF High School Broadcast Project (Carol Knopes). J-Ideas (Gerry Appel and Warren Watson), SPLC (Mark Goodman and the general SPLC e-mail address, probably Mike Hiestand), Associated Press (Puntney contact), Council of National Journalism Organizations (Puntney contact), Columbia Scholastic Press Association (Ed Sullivan), JEAHELP, JEA Scholastic Press Rights Commission, NSPA (Logan Aimone). After the e-mail distribution, C. Bowen reported: "Wendy Wallace sent our Bong Hits release on to Howard Finberg and Scott Libin at Poynter, Sandy Woodcock posted it on the youth editors list, Carol Knopes posted it on the RTNDFTEACHER list, Gerry Appel posted it on J-Ideas with their Bong Hits info."

MULTICULTURAL COMMISSION CONCERNS...Kneese

Kneese gave the board a historical overview of the Ad Hoc Board member initiative: "In 1992 the first Ad Hoc Board was created to bring ethnic diversity to the JEA board. The original four members represented the four ethnic groups: African-American, Native-American, Asian-American and Hispanic-American. Their purpose was to add perspective to the board's policies and proposals. They were able to join in discussion and work in committees and commissions. However, they were not allowed to vote as elected members were. They were appointed by consensus with the JEA president and Multicultural Commission chair. Their term lasted for two years. However, as years passed, it became more difficult to find advisers of color to serve as Ad Hoc Board members. For several years, the four-member Ad Hoc Board only had two or three members at a time. Because of this, Joe Nations, Native-American, and Teddi Johnson, African-American, were asked to stay on as Ad Hoc Board members until they no longer could serve.

Eventually, when the Outreach Academy was created, the number of Ad Hoc Board members was reduced to two. The money that was used for the other two Ad Hoc Board members went to the Outreach Academy to help fund its existence." Puntney moved and Oglesbee seconded that JEA establish an instructional team to travel from convention to convention to present the Outreach Academy. Motion passed.

Kneese reported results of a conference call to discuss ideas for the Outreach Academy in Philadelphia. Those involved in the call were Kneese, Sandy Woodcock of NAA Foundation, Linda Shockley of Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and Steve O'Donoghue of California Scholastic Journalism Initiative. Ideas include providing a follow-up session for Outreach Academy participants from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, inviting participants to Thursday night's reception, inviting participants to judge a Write-off category or shadow a Write-off judge, promoting the Outreach Academy more prominently in the convention registration booklet and on the Web site. Kneese reported that Unity 2008 will be in Chicago. The last Unity conference was in Washington, D.C., in 2004. Discussion followed of pros and cons of having a JEA presence at the conference. Kneese moved and Bair seconded that JEA send representatives to the Unity 2008 convention in Chicago. Motion failed.

BROADCAST LIAISON POSITION REPORT

Gaber moved and Tantillo seconded to transfer the Broadcast Liaison board position to a committee chair position with the intent being to explore multimedia options. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion included the following points: The word "liaison" suggests a link with another entity, such as NCTE or SPA directors. This link does not exist with another broadcast group. Gaber said such a relationship might develop over

time, but establishing a committee to explore options is a better reflection of the current situation. Electronic Media Education Committee: Gaber, chair; J. Bowen, Puntney, Newton and other interested JEA members to be announced.

AWARDS...Tantillo

Awards need to be promoted more widely to increase the number of nominations. They will be promoted this fall as part of the nationwide bookstore catalogue mailing. In addition, regional and state directors should promote the awards program to their constituents. One-on-one promotion works well. Tantillo and Fulkerson routinely post reminders of upcoming awards deadlines on JEAHELP and JEATALK. The deadline for Yearbook Adviser of the Year, Rising Star, Diversity, Teacher Inspiration and Future Teacher Scholarship awards will be changed to a received-by deadline of Oct. 15.

STUDENT JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR...Polk

The board reviewed the recommendations Polk made at the Denver board meeting: Suggested changes include

- lengthening the portfolio to 46 one-sided or 23 two-sided pages with application materials not to exceed an additional 10 pages:
 - o national application (1-2 pages)
 - o transcript (1-2 pages)
 - o 3-4 letters of recommendation (3-4 pages with letters flat)
 - o personal photo (1 page)
 - o self-analytical essay (1+ pages)
- broadening the fourth characteristic of samples: Variety of journalistic experiences, each handled in a
 quality manner --- newspaper, yearbook, broadcast, photography, web design, other design work, etc.
- making the fifth characteristic of samples optional: Sustained and commendable work with community media outside the school setting.
- changing the time limit for audiotapes and/or videotapes to 15 minutes maximum.

If the changes are approved to include community/outside-of-school work as a part of the variety of journalistic experiences showcased in the fourth characteristic, then the section of the rubric dealing with community media needs to be omitted. Discussion included requiring both student JOY applicant and the adviser to sign a statement attesting to the originality of the work submitted in the SJOY portfolio and adding judges with broadcast backgrounds and from the commercial media ranks. Gorsuch moved and Lindsay seconded that the board accept the changes to the Student Journalist of the Year Contest recommended by the JOY committee in Denver and that the committee promote the contest to students from all media. Motion passed unanimously.

TWO-TIER CONVENTION FEE...Puntney

At the Denver board meeting, Puntney said a two-tiered registration fee is something to consider for the future – one fee for those staying in the convention hotel and a higher rate for those staying outside the convention hotel because picking up enough convention hotel room nights allows us to use break-out and ballroom space at no charge. Puntney said this is not a problem yet, but it could become one. To avoid such a step, we all need to keep promoting, explaining and stressing in written materials and when we have a chance to influence others one-on-one the importance of staying in the convention hotel. Advisers with testimonials should send them to Puntney. One idea is to reward those staying in the convention hotel by entering them into a drawing for something, such as a digital camera or a free room at the hotel chain for another time.

WRITE-OFF CONCERNS...Kennedy on behalf of Write-off chairs Cindy Bandow and Patricia Turley)

Newton moved and C. Bowen and Polk seconded that the board accept the Write-off chairs' pilot contests – carry-in newsmagazine design and podcasts – for the Philadelphia convention. Motion passed unanimously. The board brainstormed ideas about how to improve the judging process for Write-offs. Ideas included the following in no particular order: limiting the number of judges since more judges results in worse judging, requiring moderators to judge, holistic reading/scoring modeled after AP test scoring, individuals or a team of individuals committing to judging the same contest for a certain number of conventions, appointing table leaders who would lead judge calibration activities, requiring all judges to attend the presentation portion of live contests and create a rubric, eat dinner with judging team (be sure to warn judges ahead of time), discontinue involvement of professional journalists as judges, pay judges, eliminate judge dinner, insist on more positive comments, publish representative winners on jea.org, eliminate judge comments on judge sheets, have a detailed training session in Philadelphia for moderator/judges, add weights to sections of the rubric. Gayda (for Rau) moved and C. Bowen, Barrington, Puntney, Nations seconded to create a committee to work with the Write-off chairs to explore changes in judging at future JEA Write-off contests. Motion passed unanimously. Write-off Judge Committee: Gayda, chair; Kennedy, Tantillo, Matson, Barrington, Puntney.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPECIFICATIONS...Puntney

Puntney introduced Steve Smethers, associate director, School of Journalism, Kansas State University. He said the school agrees with all the executive director specifications from the JEA Headquarters Search Committee:

- experience in scholastic journalism as a publications adviser, journalism teacher or media professional or college faculty member with a strong record of
- on-going work in scholastic journalism and qualified to teach college-level classes
- enthusiasm for the values of and importance of scholastic journalism and the First Amendment rights of student journalists
- familiarity with scholastic press organizations -- preference would be an individual who has been active in a scholastic press association
- exceptional skills in handling organizational finances, serving as the treasurer of the organization, preparing income tax and insurance coverage, reviewing and analyzing financial reports and helping prepare budgets
- strong communication skills -- written and spoken
- ability to manage multiple projects
- ability to hire, train and supervise a staff including adult employees, graduate interns and undergraduate students

- ability to be a strong ambassador for JEA with other organizations
- willingness to raise funds for JEA by working with vendors or seeking grants and other funding
- multi-media skills
- · plan conventions
- promote organization
- · serve as scholastic press advocate
- · answer telephone, mail and e-mail inquiries
- · coordinate membership lists
- coordinate publications program
- · coordinate printing of publications and other materials
- · maintain inventory of membership materials
- prepare agendas
- duplicate and mail minutes of proceedings
- administer teacher crediting program
- supervise office staff

He said the J-school will not require JEA's next executive director to teach extra classes, direct student publications or do research, although these would be options for the new director. The assignment will be 50 percent JEA and 50 percent J-school faculty. JEA will have a representative on the search committee. Others from the JEA board may be able to be involved in the selection process via compressed video or streaming video of interviews.

Puntney said she has adjusted her retirement date as JEA Executive Director from June 30, 2009, to Jan. 1, 2010. She will remain at Kansas State until June 30, 2010, as a transition with the new JEA executive director. Smethers expects to start the search for Puntney's replacement in the fall of 2008. Plans for the search will begin in the 2007-08 school year.

The next regular meeting of the JEA Board of Directors is at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007, at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, Pa. Motion to adjourn at 4:40 p.m., July 2, by Oglesbee, seconded by everyone.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Hathaway Tantillo, MJE JEA Secretary

Attachment

to 2007 Summer Board Meeting Minutes, "BONG HiTS 4 JESUS" press release: July 2,2007

For further information, contact JEA executive director Linda Puntney 785-532-7822 or 866-532-5532.

The Journalism Education Association board of directors, meeting in Manhattan, Kan., today urged administrators, teachers and students to recognize the limitations of the recent Morse v. Frederick United States Supreme Court decision.

"We see this ruling as potentially damaging to robust discussion of a whole range of important issues in America's classrooms," JEA president Jack Kennedy said.

Commonly referred to as "BONG HiTS 4 JESUS," the case resulted in the Court voting 5-4 to give school administrators the authority to limit expression that advocates illegal drug activity and to do so without violating students' existing First Amendment protections.

"The special characteristic of the school environment," the Court wrote, "and the governmental interest in stopping student drug abuse, allow schools to restrict student expression that they reasonably regard as promoting such abuse."

However, dissenting Justice John Paul Stevens, who wrote the minority opinion, said the decision started with a silly nonsensical banner and ended with a special First Amendment rule.

"The Court," Stevens wrote, "does serious violence to the First Amendment in upholding – indeed, lauding – a school's decision to punish Frederick for expressing a view with which it disagreed."

JEA Scholastic Press Rights Commission chair John Bowen said the decision should be seen in its limited light.

"Clearly, this decision should not be used as an excuse to control or prevent speech school officials do not agree with or find controversial," Bowen said.

In a second concurring opinion, Justice Samuel Alito and Justice Anthony Kennedy, joined the majority, but added their concerns that restricted speech must relate only to that which advocates illegal drug use and must not include any comments on political and social issues. JEA had harsh words for the concurring opinion of Justice Clarence Thomas. Thomas said historically students have not had and should not have First Amendment protection that Tinker v. Des Moines, a 1969 Supreme Court decision, guaranteed.

"That view appears to return us to the era of 'children should be seen but not heard," JEA president Kennedy said. "That's hardly the leadership we need as schools undertake the important task of encouraging thoughtful, articulate and involved citizens."

Kennedy said JEA soon will release a Talking Points position for educators, students and administrators to help them deal with issues arising from this decision. JEA is also creating a national contest for student journalists specific to the court's decision. Information about this contest will be available soon.

"Most students do not shed their brains at the schoolhouse gate," Justice Stevens wrote in his dissent. "Most students know dumb advocacy when they see it."

JEA supports Stevens' position and will continue to provide educational materials to administrators, teachers, students and communities who support and endorse the value of free student expression.