

**Subcommittee on Employee Relations
Legislative Coordinating Commission
Friday, March 19, 2004
10:00 a.m.
Room 125 State Capitol**

Present:

Sen. Linda Scheid
Sen. David Gaither
Sen. Steve Kelley
Sen. Sandra Pappas
Sen. Betsy Wergin
Rep. Kent Eken
Rep. Bill Haas
Rep. Jim Knoblach

Excused:

Rep. Jim Knoblach
Rep. Michael Paymar

Senator Scheid called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Pappas moved approval of the minutes from the March 5, 2004 meeting. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Review of State Residential Schools Education Association (SRSEA) contract

Paul Larson, Deputy Commissioner of DOER, summarized the changes in the bargaining unit for this contract. The bargaining unit includes 160 teachers employed at the Minnesota Academies for the Deaf and Blind, the Perpich Center for Arts Education, and the Department of Corrections.

Amy McKee, Labor Negotiator Principal for DOER, reported on the insurance modifications that affect part-time employees, and early retirement cost containing modifications for the Department of Corrections that were effective immediately. She summarized the matching contribution to deferred comp up to \$50 and a continued matched contribution to the Health Care Savings Plan. She also reviewed the change in existing language with respect to the teachers awards program.

Jill Pettis, Compensation Manager, DOER, summarized the costs of increases in the SRSEA contract. These increases will be 1.6% this biennium that will add 3.57% to the next biennium's base. Ms. Pettis said 37% will receive step increases.

Review of Middle Management Association (MMA) contract

SandyBlaeser, Labor Relations, DOER, reviewed the changes for the Middle Management Association Contract. The contract covers 2,800 supervisors. There would be no across the board increase in either year, but step increases would be provided. However, in the second year there would be a 3 month delay for those step increases. There was also the provision for employees to convert 1 hour of vacation for every four hours used to deferred comp, up to 40 hours.

Representative Haas moved the SER-1 amendment. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Greg Hubinger, Director of the Subcommittee on Employee Relations, reminded members that since the legislature is in session these contracts would not take effect immediately but would need to wait until the bill passes.

Other Business

Paul Larson, updated the Subcommittee on the outstanding contracts and the challenges that still lay ahead reaching agreements with other units.

John Shabatura, Associate Vice Chancellor for Labor Relations, MnSCU, reported on the status of negotiations with the Inter Faculty Organization (IFO), consisting of 2,500 members. IFO did not accept the final offer and they are returning to mediation. There is a mediation session one week from today.

There being no further business, the subcommittee adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Senator Linda Scheid, Chair