



**Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day**



## Minutes of the BTA General Membership Meeting: September 8, 2009

\*This meeting was held during the September Superintendent's Conference in the theater of BHS.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Kim Atwell**

- Atwell began the meeting by introducing the Executive Committee and Building Representatives as well as recognizing new teachers in the district and teachers who received tenure in 2009.
- Attendance- reminder that personal days should be personal and that the district will be taking note of teacher absences and patterns of absences.
- Atwell urged membership to attend building informational meetings held during September and October in each building. For dates, please check your informational guide (found in the folder handed out during the meeting) or check the BTA Website
- AFLAC Supplemental Cancer Insurance- presentations will be made during each building's faculty meetings next month and additional information will soon be available on the BTA website
- Certification- membership must know their certification timelines and requirements and keep them up to date. New Member Coordinators, Amanda Conover and Cassandra O'Dell, will be working with the mentor coordinator to help inform members about their responsibilities.
- Education Learning Trust (ELT)- 3 courses will be offered during this school year. Classroom Management will be offered October 28, 2009, Achieving Tenure will be offered January 26, 2010, and Effective Discipline Strategies will be offered April 20, 2010. All classes will be held from 4-6pm in the LGI at BHS. Sign up with Amanda Conover or Cassandra O'Dell.
- Contract: Pre-negotiation procedure- Atwell stated that the negotiations will be difficult because of the current economic climate; she plans for it to be a transparent process- there will be general membership meetings to inform the membership
- Child Rearing Leave- this has been an issue for many years in the district and the BTA is working closely with district administration to ensure that all members are treated equally and that the law is followed. Sample letters are available on the BTA website and more information about your rights will be coming soon.
- Non Coaching and Coaching Supplementals- Atwell stated that she is looking into the issue since there have been concerns over lack of payments of 7% increases as well as the timeline for pay increases for coaches. More information will be forthcoming as a resolution is sought between the BTA and the district.
- APPR- Annual Professional Performance Review Plan- will be adopted by the Board of Education at their next meeting. This document is required by law as are TIPS (Teacher Improvement Plans).
  - The APPR took 8 months to develop and will be approved and updated on a yearly basis
  - The document contains a schedule for observations and evaluations which is specific to each discipline (Guidance, Social Workers, School Psychologists, etc.)
  - Will provide for consistency for grade levels in evaluations
  - Tenured teachers will be evaluated differently than Non Tenured teachers. Tenured teachers will have a choice in their evaluation methods.
- Retirement Seminar- Gina Fontenot and Kim Atwell will be attending the NYSTRS (New York State Teachers Retirement System) conference in Saratoga November 8-9<sup>th</sup>; The BTA will be hosting a Retirement Seminar March 10, 2010 for those within 10 years of retirement- if you are interested in attending contact Gina Fontenot
- Cancer Screening- employees are entitled to a half day (4 hours) to either get a mammography or a prostate exam. You will be required to have a doctor's note to not be charged for a sick day. More info will be provided on the BTA website.

### **WEBSITE PRESENTATION- Bill Castaldi**

- An overview of information that can be found on the new BTA website was given ([beaconteachers.org](http://beaconteachers.org))

### **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT- Diane D'Uva**

- Grievance Process- 1<sup>st</sup> go to your Building Rep who will fill out the appropriate form, Building Rep will work with VP on grievance

- Special Election: Vacancies: NYSUT Delegate- must attend Representative Assembly Meeting in April in Washington D.C., also attend ED 13 Meetings in Kingston at NYSUT office; AFT Delegate
- 50 minute reminder- 25 minutes must be spent engaging in student tutorials. A principal cannot assign students, no lesson plans are required, and attendance should not be taken. Contact your Building Reps. if there are problems such as students still being present after the 25 minutes are completed. This may go on to become a District Advisory topic. The other 25 minutes are for you to use as you see fit (i.e. lesson plans, parent/teacher conferences, department meetings, etc.).
- Sick Bank- available to second year teachers. To sign up contact Anne Marie Quartironi.

**TREASURER'S REPORT- Jeff Matus**

- Reminder to check your pay checks to ensure you are being paid the correct amount; also remember union dues can be deducted from your taxes

**SECRETARY'S REPORT- Dawn Clemens**

- Membership- Any change of name, or returning from a leave must inform Dawn Clemens
- Conference forms- must be turned in to Dawn Clemens for approval
- Informational Guide- found in yellow folders handed out during the meeting; contains valuable information
- Technology and Teachers- BTA urges teachers to be cautious in their use of technology and avoid having inappropriate contact with students via email, facebook, myspace, etc.
- Public Relations
  - Building reporter for newsletter in each building- to inform Clemens about activities/events/interesting items that are happening in your building.
  - Spirit of Beacon Day (9/27)- We will be giving away balloons and holding a raffle to benefit the BTA Scholarship fund. If you would like to volunteer to "man" the booth, please contact D. Clemens.
  - REACH- Reading, Educators, And Children @ Howland Library- program was recognized at BOE meeting by Howland Library; to participate contact Kathleen Wiacek.
  - Fall Get-together- Jen Fisher will have more information in the coming weeks.
  - American Cancer Society Walk (10/18)- at Woodbury Commons; if you are interested in participating please contact Donna Snowden or Arleen Phypers.
  - BTA Apparel is currently available (contact Kim Atwell or Diane D'Uva), pre-order sale will begin in October, \$5 of cost will be contributed to the BTA Scholarship fund

**VOTE/COPE- John Burns**

- A donation drive will be beginning in October; please consider contributing