



Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



A Union of Professionals



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Minutes of the BTA Representative Assembly Meeting: May 4, 2010

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Kim Atwell- President | Elizabeth Hanrahan- JVF | Charlotte Sypher- NYSUT Delegate |
| Diane D'Uva- Vice President | Terri Losito- JVF | Jennifer Vasil- AFT Delegate |
| Jeff Matus- Treasurer | Alicia Fahlman- Glenham | John Burns- NYSUT Delegate, VOTE/COPE- <i>excused</i> |
| Dawn Clemens- Secretary | Donna Snowden- Glenham | Gina Fontenot- Retirement |
| Bobby Atwell- BHS | Matt Carpenter- Sargent | Jennifer Fisher- Social |
| Bill Castaldi- BHS- <i>excused</i> | Jane Cervone- Sargent- <i>excused</i> | Elizabeth Botero- Dental- <i>excused</i> |
| Tom Clemens- RMS | Kelley Bender- South Avenue | Donna Glynn- Mid Hudson Teacher Center Liaison- <i>absent</i> |
| Roe Greco- RMS | Lisa Biersack- South Avenue | Dave Ryley- Scholarship- <i>excused</i> |

President Kim Atwell called the meeting to order at 3:54 in the Community Room at BHS. Dawn Clemens made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 6, 2010 meeting. Seconded by Tom Clemens, the motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports:

TREASURER: Jeff Matus Balances as of May 4, 2010-

| Account | Balance |
|----------|-------------|
| Checking | \$38,265.27 |
| Savings | \$30,656.42 |
| CD | \$19,277.97 |
| Total: | \$88,150.66 |
| Dental | \$13,747.93 |

Matus reminded the RA that they are responsible for submitting conference approval and reimbursement forms.

SECRETARY: Dawn Clemens

DCUTC Report

- NYSUT will be holding an Endorsement Conference (8/9/10) where local presidents will be making choices as to who NYSUT will endorse in the fall elections. They will be looking at public statements as well as voting record.
- Race to the Top- NYS is applying for 2nd round of grants; districts will be asking locals to fill out a Memorandum of Understanding but it is up to each local to decide whether or not to sign. The MOU will stipulate that changes must be negotiated.
- NYSUT is opposed to raising the cap on Charter Schools because \$2 billion would be lost from public schools for one time opportunity for funds
- New federal Health Insurance Bill will affect us in a number of ways, NYSUT will be providing information as to how it will impact us as individuals
- DCUTC is advocating suggesting cost saving measures to district administrators rather than just saying no to a zero percent increase

VICE PRESIDENT: Diane D'Uva

- Seniority lists are still being finalized, lists will be sent out again before school gets out
- Non coaching supplemental job descriptions will be worked on during the summer. The BTA is looking for members to help in creating descriptions and to meet with Jean Lain this summer.

PRESIDENT: Kim Atwell

- Mid Hudson Leadership Conference (in Cooperstown, NY) will be from 8/30-9/1. The BTA can take up to six people.

- Negotiations- A letter from Jim Henry (RMS) was read to the RA. This letter was sent to each member of the negotiations team. A discussion ensued as to how or if he should address the RA. It was agreed upon that Henry could be a valuable resource for past practices and that he should give a presentation during the June RA meeting.
- District calendar is being revised---will be Board Approved on Monday 5/10
- Atwell attended the NYSUT RA Delegate Assembly in Washington DC (along with Charlotte Sypher). NYSUT is hoping that the federal government will pass a Jobs Bill which would give NYS \$1.4 billion if passed.
- School Budget- May 18th is budget vote and board candidates---remind teachers to vote---Kim will be attending PTA/PTO meetings
- Benefit Trust- Atwell met with Laura Calhoun about setting up a Benefit Trust. She gave Atwell a complete overview of programs, how to establish, run, and negotiate a Benefit Trust Fund. There would be a start up cost of approximately \$2,000 which includes legal fees. Atwell's major concern is getting trustees who will be legally and financially responsible for running the fund. She will be inviting Calhoun to a General Membership or a RA meeting next school year.
- BASE Teachers- should not be evaluated or observed until procedures are negotiated
- Rombout Middle School- There have been rising concerns about issues in the building. On April 25th an emergency meeting at RMS called by Atwell. The issues generally stem from problems with administration in the building and their treatment of teachers.
 - o Kim has met with Mr. Archer and Dr. Aefsky about the situation.
 - o Concerns about potential plans to move union people out of the building which violates Taylor Law. If that were to occur the BTA would file improper practice charges against district.
 - o The BTA will be requesting a meeting with the BOE to discuss issue prior to filing charges
 - o 59 out of 66 full time employees in building attended the emergency meeting
 - o Atwell emailed Dr. Aefsky following the meeting to follow up with how the meeting went and informed her as to the next steps the union will take
 - o Atwell reminded the RA that this is not just a building issue; it's a union and our members.
 - o Atwell is asking for people who choose to go back to the administration about union discussions to please speak accurately and specifically as opposed to giving incorrect and inaccurate information or misquoting her
 - o T. Clemens stated that when people say "it's not bothering me so I don't care" about the issue, that they should realize the long term effects of moving union people and the message that sends to the administration.
- Atwell would also like to congratulate and welcome Kara Conrad as principal of South Avenue Elementary.

Committee Reports:

MEMBERSHIP: Dawn Clemens

- Current membership is 269, please let D. Clemens know if you have a name or address change.

CONSTITUTION: Dawn Clemens--- The Constitution Committee met and discussed amendments to the constitution which will be discussed under new business.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Dawn Clemens

- The May issue of Between Assignments is out, the due date for articles for the next newsletter is June 1st
- The Bagel Breakfast for teacher and staff appreciation went well. Thank you to all who help out!
- BTA apparel sales will be taken over by Lisa Biersack next school year (Thanks, Lisa!!!)
- The Public Relations committee has been working in conjunction with the Political Action Committee on the school budget and Board of Education vote

ELECTION: Diane D'Uva

- The only contested position is building rep at RMS- 3 people are running for 2 positions
- The election is May 25th, all members will be getting notification through the mail

GRIEVANCE: Diane D'Uva- None at this time

BUDGET: Jeff Matus

- A revised budget was passed out. There will be a dues increase of 69 cents per paycheck and \$3,000 from savings will be used.
- The vote will take place in each building on May 25th

SCHOLARSHIP: Dave Ryley

- The deadline for scholarship applications was May 7th and the scholarship committee will be meeting soon after to make their decisions.
- Golf Tournament- still looking for sponsors. Please let us know if you know anyone who is willing to sponsor a hole or donate raffle prizes. Additionally we will be asking for volunteers to work during the event. *Reminder- this tournament is different than the District golf tournament.

POLITICAL ACTION:

- C. Sypher- attended the NYSUT RA in Washington DC with K. Atwell. She was excited to see the democratic process at work. She also urged members to sign the "Pink Hearts, Not Pink Slips" petition on the AFT website which is in support of the federal jobs bill.
- D. Clemens- has headed the campaign for the BCSD budget and BOE candidates. The BTA has created flyers, attended Beacon Barks, placed lawn signs around the community, created a facebook group "Vote Yes for Education in Beacon", passed out pens, and will be attending sporting events in support of the upcoming vote.

SOCIAL: Jennifer Fisher

- The bowling event raised \$70 for the scholarship fund
- The BTA Barbeque will be taking place on Saturday June 5th from noon-5pm. Cost is \$5 per person, \$10/family.
- Fisher is looking into BTA night at Renegades

TECHNOLOGY: Bill Castaldi- No report

RETIREMENT: Gina Fontenot- the latest edition of the retirement newsletter is out

DENTAL: Kim Atwell

- The BTA will keep the dental until the end of the school year BUT is looking for someone really willing to step up and handle the program by the end of May, if no one volunteers, we will terminate the program.

Building Reports:

BHS: No Report

Glenham: All is going well

JVF: There was an issue during the State tests (4/27) when a roofing crew showed up. They did not use power tools but did stomping test during the entire test. The building reps spoke with the principal who told roofers to leave. They stated that they were directed by Charlie Symon to stay.

RMS: On April 25th BTA members at RMS were called to a meeting by the President to discuss administrative concerns. The teachers had the opportunity to express their feelings and concerns. We are pursuing the issue.

Sargent: An email was sent out about a possible dress code for teachers. It was determined that teachers can wear shorts but they need to be professional

South Ave: Building would like to formally welcome Kara Conrad as principal of their school

Old Business:

A motion was made by Jeff Matus to approve the 2010-2011 BTA Budget, seconded by Donna Snowden. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

BTA Constitution:

- The Constitutional Committee recommendations for amendments were the following:
 - o Adding building reps at the secondary level (4 for RMS and 4 for BHS)
 - o Giving full vote to each elementary building rep (as opposed to the current ½ vote)
- Discussion ensued and no motion was made to amend the constitution

Monthly RA meetings

- It was proposed to have RA meetings the last Tuesday of the month rather than the first Tuesday of the month to enable building reps to speak about current issues at their faculty meetings.
- This will be discussed further and voted on during the next meeting

NYSHIP verification forms

- This is going on industry wide to prevent fraud

The next meeting of the BTA Representative Assembly (RA) will take place on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 in the Community Room at BHS. The meeting will start at 3:45pm.

All business having been completed, Jen Vasil made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Roe Greco. Kim Atwell adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by BTA Secretary, Dawn Clemens.