



Beacon Teachers Association

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day



A Union of Professionals



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Minutes of the BTA Representative Assembly Meeting: October 25, 2011

Kim Atwell- <i>President</i>	Terri Losito- <i>JVF</i>	Tony Truscello- <i>NYSUT excused</i>
Dawn Clemens- <i>Vice President</i>	Lesli Tompkins- <i>JVF</i>	Dave Ryley- <i>Scholarship Excused</i>
Jeff Matus- <i>Treasurer excused</i>	Donna Snowden- <i>Glenham</i>	Charlotte Sypher- <i>AFT Delegate absent</i>
Gina Fontenot- <i>Secretary excused</i>	Danielle Yeaple- <i>Glenham</i>	Dave Ryley- <i>Scholarship Excused</i>
Bill Castaldi- <i>BHS</i>	Maryanne Ceriello- <i>Sargent</i>	Jennifer Fisher- <i>Social</i>
Erin Johnson - <i>BHS</i>	Jane Cervone- <i>Sargent</i>	Donna Glynn- <i>Mid Hudson Teacher Center Liaison</i>
Glen Morris- <i>RMS</i>	Kelly Bender- <i>South Avenue</i>	Dave Ryley- <i>Scholarship Excused</i>
Angie Winkleman- <i>RMS</i>	Alicia Tyra- <i>South Avenue</i>	

President Kim Atwell called the meeting to order at 3:56 pm in the Community Room at BHS.

Officer Reports:

TREASURER: Jeff Matus Balances as of October 25, 2011-

Account	Balance
Checking	\$ 27,182
Savings	\$ 30,677.19
CD	\$ 19,290.96
Total:	\$ 77,150.95

SECRETARY: Gina Fontenot

- Please alert the secretary if there are any new or returning members in your building
- Schedule for ELT classes will be coming out shortly. We are hoping to offer 2-3 classes – these are free for teachers! We are looking into focusing on literacy and math especially.

VICE PRESIDENT: Dawn Clemens

- BOE Meeting sign up – a distribution list will be created in order to remind people of when their date is.
- The APPR training was opened up to all building reps, officers and negotiation team members. 9 people will be attending the training on 11/10/11
- NYSUT has created the Local Action Project, (LAP – there was a packet handed out)
 - This is a “unique, three year program to help local unions increase member participation, build community support and achieve results in providing the best education programs, contracts, budget votes and more”.
 - This entails a 3 year commitment at a summer conference (requiring 5-6 volunteers)
 - Volunteers will develop an action plan with activities funded by the local as well as NYSUT
- IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, CAN MAKE THE SUMMER COMMITMENT AND/OR WANT TO HELP CREATE A PROPOSAL FOR OUR LAP APPLICATION, PLEASE CONTACT DAWN CLEMENS ASAP.

PRESIDENT: Kim Atwell

- Kim Atwell apologizes for the delay of the minutes from the last meeting.

Board Recognition

- Thank you for all of the teachers who were able to come to Board Recognition on 10/24
- Thank you to Donna Snowden for all of her work organizing it – the format was different this year.
 - There has been a lot of positive feedback, there were approximately 70 members in attendance and the BTA Apparel was striking.

United Way Campaign

- Kim Atwell is the chairperson for the campaign in the district.
 - Participation has been dismal in the last few years.
 - Mr. Hillburgh brought all of the unit heads together to stress the importance of this campaign and what a good opportunity it is for positive public relations.
 - There is a video presentation on the districts' system
 - K. Atwell asks for building reps to please distribute the information to the members.
- K. Atwell would like to thank Mr. Hillburgh for his amazing work over the past five months in the district – this is a testament to what good leadership can do and how valuable it is. On behalf of the BTA, I thank him and wish him well.
- The interview committee for the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel is comprised of 3 teachers, 3 administrators and one secretary. Three candidates will be interviewed on Thursday, 10/27. At that point the committee will recommend 2 candidates to Dr. Bandlow.
- K. Atwell would like to welcome Dr. Bandlow to the district. The teachers union will work to support Dr. Bandlow as well as work on developing a positive relationship to continue our progress with the district.
- There have been some discussions with Jeff Matus, Treasurer. J. Matus is not intending to continue in his role as treasurer after the conclusion of the school year. He would be willing to work with people interested in taking over this position as a mentor.
- Discussions regarding the APPR have come up quite a bit – K. Atwell urges the BTA leadership to attend the NYSUT workshop.
 - She has been discussing issues with Dr. Walkley and working on negotiated items
 - 4-8 ELA and Math teachers are under the new APPR, everyone else remains under the old regulations and contract language for the remainder of this year.
 - Untenured teachers who fall under 4-8 ELA/Math are following the contract as it is currently written, not the new APPR
 - THIS YEAR ONLY (or until a new contract is agreed upon) - For teachers of ELA/Math in grades 4 – 8; These teachers only will be following the contract in regards to evaluations.
 - Pre-Observations can be done for both tenured and non-tenured teachers
 - Members should refer to e-mails from K. Atwell with FAQ's and old APPR if it applies
 - B. Walkley will be setting up a meeting for the general membership in November.

Committee Reports:

NEGOTIATIONS: Kim Atwell-

- General membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26th at 4:00 pm in the Theater at Beacon High School
- There have been two formal meetings with the district thus far, (10/4 and 10/20), and there are two more currently scheduled, (November and December)
- Kim has had many informal meetings with Mr. Hillburgh and Anne Marie Quartironi

MEMBERSHIP: Gina Fontenot

- There are approximately 270 union members
- Members should continue sending any name and/or address changes

CONSTITUTION: Gina Fontenot

- G. Fontenot is looking for proposals from members regarding the constitution, there are already some and this is very much appreciated.
- The committee will be meeting in November

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Donna Snowden

- The newsletter is coming soon! Our newsletter will be entered into the journalism competition for the 3rd year – this is due in December
- Thank you to Donna Glynn for getting the camera from the MHTC for Public Relations Committee use
- Making Strides walk – approximately 20 teachers attended with a total of 40 plus people representing the BTA. The Hudson Valley earned \$775,000!!!
- Board Recognition – D. Snowden gave locally purchased gifts from Beacon D'Lites.

ELECTION: Dawn Clemens

- Elizabeth Kennedy would like to be the NYSUT Delegate. The RA will vote under new business.

GRIEVANCE: Dawn Clemens

- No report

BUDGET: Jeff Matus

- Taxes will be done this month
- Audit will be done by December 31st.

SCHOLARSHIP: Dave Ryley

- No report

POLITICAL ACTION:Dawn Clemens

- Political action will be extremely important given the state of the economy and the 2% tax cap.
- The team will be meeting soon
- The BOE members up for election this year are: Bill Zopf, Georgia Patchen and Frank Garnot
- The committee may be looking for people to run.

SOCIAL: Jennifer Fisher

- 46 people went to Torches, there was good feedback
- J. Fisher is looking into River Terrace, (formerly Four Seasons), as a possibility for 1st Friday event
- J. Fisher is planning on an event for the day before Thanksgiving early release.
- In the pre-planning stages of 100th night.

TECHNOLOGY: Bill Castaldi/Tom Burns

- E-mail and the Website are functioning well and still getting hits.

RETIREMENT: Frank Lofaro

- No report

DENTAL: Kim Atwell

- **Reminder to teachers:** Inquiries should not go to the district office unless it is a pay issue.
 - If it is a pay issue, contact AnneMarie Quartironi and cc Mary Esposito and Florence Zopf
- New teachers still have the opportunity to sign up for the dental plan
- An individual can terminate the plan at any time – change forms will be given to building reps, but in the meantime, you can ask K. Atwell for one.
 - Once the form is filled out, the member would mail it to Aetna and THEY will forward it to the district

Building Reports:

BHS:

- Everything is good.
- Good luck to Mr. Soltish
- Welcome to Mr. Archer

Glenham:

- Everything is good
- Thanks to Kim for her remarks to the BOE about the dedication of teachers

JVF:

- All is well.
- Great showing at the BOE meeting
- Consistent issues with the copier.

RMS:

- Welcome to Mr. Hughes as building principal
- Welcome to Mr. Soltish
- Thanks to Mr. Hillburgh for his outstanding service to the district in difficult times

Sargent:

- All is well

South Avenue:

- Enjoying the newly remodeled faculty room
- Appreciative of the great turnout for Math Night – the First Annual
- Appreciative of the great turnout for Board Recognition

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Dawn Clemens made a motion to nominate Elizabeth Kennedy to be the NYSUT Delegate for the 2011 -2012 school year.
- Bill Castaldi seconded that motion
- Motion passed – welcome to Elizabeth Kennedy!

The next meeting of the BTA Representative Assembly (RA) will take place on **November 29, 2011 at 3:45 pm** in the Community Room at BHS.

All business having been completed, Alicia Tyra made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Terri Losito. Kim Atwell adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by: BTA Secretary, Gina Fontenot and Vice President Dawn Clemens.