BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MINUTES
May 14, 2008
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Meeting was called to order: 4:15 PM

Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2008
Moved: W. Lastowski
Seconded: P. Hunter
Passed (8-0-1)

Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2008
Moved: D. Brown
Seconded: V. Pittman
Passed (8-0-1)

President’s Report
1. NYSUT Leadership Conference in Cooperstown will be last week in August. Those members that spoke at the Board Forum will be invited to fill the available spots. Then, Directors will be invited.
2. Placement/Reconfiguration Meetings- Dual Language Program has two monolingual Kindergarten and one Bilingual second grade position available.
3. North Junior High placed teachers that had to move out of North Junior High in Temple Hill and Meadow Hill. There will be extra staff at THA and MH. Principals will deploy them in the building.
4. Involuntary Transfer from Kindergarten was not done. The district accepted volunteers instead.
5. NTA President will be going to NJH to speak about the reconfiguration.
6. All expenses incurred by the retiree chapter legal fund were approved by their executive board.
7. Retiree Chapter requested reimbursement.
8. Discussion took place regarding sick days.
9. Committee of 100 was attended by NTA President and Secretary- some of the topics discussed with NYS Representatives were:
   a. 55/25 if it is voted on it will be in December
   b. SUNY funding
   c. Property Tax Caps
   d. Pension COLA
Vice-President’s Report
1. Performance Condition meetings—two meetings need to be rescheduled due to staff development and Memorial Day weekend extension.
2. Substitutes met on May 7, 2008

Treasurer’s Report
Report given at meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS
Unanimous consent given to change the order of business to hear new member initiative presentation for NFA.

MOTION #1:
Whereas, the Newburgh Teachers’ Association has established a college scholarship in the name of South Junior High School Math Teacher and former NTA President John DeMiceli, and

Whereas, the award is given to an NFA senior who has demonstrated excellence, leadership and academic ability, be it therefore,

Resolved, that the NTA award this year’s John DeMiceli scholarship to NFA graduating senior Britney Culity.

(Submitted by NTA Scholarship Committee Chair Phil Giansante)

Moved: W. Lastowski
Seconded: A. Sartori Passed Unanimously

MOTION #2:
Whereas, it is the policy of the NTA to reaffirm on a yearly basis its intent to conduct an annual Leadership Training Conference, and

Whereas, the benefits and gains for the union and the members are evident in the passage of important bonds, implementation of action plans, and the discussion of important topics necessary for representatives to properly perform their duties, be it therefore

Resolved, that our elected representatives reaffirm its commitment to NTA Leadership Conference activities for 2008-2009.
(Submitted by NTA President Phil Cordella)

Moved: D. Liebman
Seconded: K. Roberts Passed Unanimously
MOTION # 3:
Whereas, Kevin Murphy, as a teacher at South Junior High School and at Newburgh Free Academy, served his students with professionalism, kindness and respect, and

Whereas, Kevin Murphy was a strong unionist and leader who served in many capacities including Building Delegate, Director, NTA Secretary, NYSUT and AFT Delegate/Alternate among others, and

Whereas, Kevin Murphy fought courageously in his battle against cancer, and

Whereas, Kevin Murphy’s life and eventually his death were symbolized by his courage and his compassion, be it therefore

Resolved: That the NTA’s Delegate Assembly pause in its deliberations to remember the lifer, contributions and dedication of Kevin Murphy to the NTA and to the school district, and be it further
Resolved: That a special notation of this resolution be included in the minutes of the proceedings of the Delegate Assembly, and be it further
Resolved: that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. Mary Ann Murphy and to their sons Joseph and Michael Murphy on behalf of the NTA.

(Submitted by NTA retiree Chapter Chairperson Frank Colone)

Moved: D. Liebman
Seconded: P. Hunter Passed (8-0-1)

MOTION # 4:
Whereas, Jen Harrison was a member of the Teaching Assistant Chapter of the Newburgh Teachers’ Association and an active parent in the Newburgh Enlarged City School District and

Whereas, Jean’s children are graduates of or are attending Newburgh Free Academy, and

Whereas, Jean’s untimely and tragic death has created a need for financial support, be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA make a donation of $500.00 to the Education Fund that has been established to financially assist the family in providing a post-secondary education for all of her children.

(Submitted by the NTA members Jennifer Coloni, William Lastowski, and Deborah Smith)

Moved: W. Lastowski
Seconded: P. Hunter Passed Unanimously
MOTION #5

Whereas, the safety and smooth operation of the school buildings in the District depends on being able to contact the appropriate resources, and

Whereas, the NTA Substitute Chapter has members who work in a variety of schools and often without the immediate access knowledge of particulars for building resources and contact telephone numbers, such as the main office, the health office, the SAVE room, security, and the administration, be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA Board of Directors request that the important contact information be posted in a permanent place near the new telephone locations in all the buildings in a consistent manner that easily identifies each resource.

(Submitted by NTA Substitute Chapter)
Moved: V. Pittman
Seconded: A. Sartori

Motion to table to the June meeting
Moved: S. Minard
Seconded: D. Brown Passed Unanimously

MOTION #6

Whereas, the educational community has deemed cell phones dangerous to student welfare in that students can mobilize quickly, and

Whereas, the educational community believes that cell phones in schools can be detrimental to student achievement and a tremendous distraction to learning, and

Whereas, the educational community believes that cell phones in schools can aid in plagiarism on student reports and assignments through testing and wireless communication, and

Whereas, the recent ban on cell phones in the New York City Schools has twice been reaffirmed in the appeals court because the ban will raise student achievement as well as the quality of education in the schools, be it

Resolved, that the NTA Board of Directors approach the Administrators’ Union to join together to petition the NECSD Board of Education to create a cell phone policy that bans cell phones in our schools and/or work to facilitate a technical program to disable the use of cell phones during the educational day.

(Submitted by NTA Delegates Rocco Sangervasio and Sheri Hall)
Moved: D. Brown
Seconded: V. Pittman Motion Defeated (3-6-0)
GOOD AND WELFARE:

Motion to adjourn: 5:55 PM
Moved: W. Lastowski
Seconded: N. Sparacio

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Roberts
NTA Secretary