BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MINUTES
December 12, 2007
www.newburghta.org


Meeting was called to order: 4:20 PM

Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2007
Moved: D. Brown
Seconded: V. Pittman
Passed Unanimously

President’s Report
1. Board Forum well attended and presenters were all professional and effective
2. The NTA President’s lunch time meetings in each school have been productive
3. December 19, 2007 Holiday Party will take place at the union hall this year
4. Audit of Curriculum steering committee met Dec. 10 Pat Hunter & NTA Pres. attended
5. Next secondary Math Advisory Committee is January 10, elementary is Jan 8.
6. Staff reorganization talks going slowly – an ambitious calendar has been set
7. President letters to be reviewed at end of meeting
8. Swipe card rumors

Vice-President’s Report
1. Benchmark meeting with the Superintendent
2. Information coming out from Performance Conditions meetings is useful still moving along.

Treasurer’s Report
1. Report given at meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Whereas, it has been the past practice of the NTA’s Nomination and Election committee to establish conditions of election, and

Whereas, those conditions have established the right of candidates or advocates for or against propositions and referendum to distribute literature paid for by themselves or their slate, and
Whereas, that the NTA Treasurer has determined that a voucher submitted to pay for campaign literature related in the recent NTA Constitution and Bylaws amendment requested that the union expend funds for the mailing of literature supporting a certain position, be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA Board of Directors not pay the voucher requests submitted by NTA Retiree Chair dated September 28, 2007 and October 3, 2007.
(Submitted by NTA Treasurer Angela Sartori)

Moved by: N. Sparacio
Seconded: K. Roberts

Motion to Postpone
Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors postpone until its January meeting the above motion in order to receive additional information due to statements made in Mr. Colone’s December 7, 2007 letter to the body.

Moved by: D. Brown
Seconded: V. Pittman
Passed Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION # 1

Resolved that the NTA support the following resolution to the 2008 NYSUT Representative Assembly:

“Whereas NYSUT has affirmed that “all school districts provide the services of a school psychologist in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Commissioner of Education and that any person employed by a school district to provide such services shall be duly certified as a school psychologist;” and

Whereas current research demonstrates the effectiveness of providing mental health and positive behavioral supports in the schools in improving student achievement and adjustment; and

Whereas current research indicates that one in five children are diagnosed with a mental health disorder and that 75% to 80% are not receiving appropriate services for these issues; and

Whereas Federal procedures for reimbursement of school psychological services to some students have changed to require a higher level of credentialing of the professional providing these services; and

Whereas these changes in reimbursement procedures threatens the effective provision of children’s mental health services in the schools; and

Whereas these changes in reimbursement procedures have had an impact upon school psychology positions; and
Whereas some districts have misinterpreted changes in available funding sources for school psychologists’ practice, such that their responsibilities and activities have been inappropriately restricted and their scope of practice limited; therefore be it

Resolved, that NYSUT supports legislative changes to reflect the attainment of the appropriate level of credentialing for school psychologists to continue to provide services to all students, without a restriction or limitation of their roles in the schools.”
(Submitted by NTA member Kelly Caci)

Moved by: D. Brown
Seconded: W. Lastowski
Passed Unanimously

MOTION #2

Resolved, that the NTA Board of Directors, upon approval, adjust the 2007 – 2008 budget to reflect accurately the employment contracts of the NTA Office Manager and Administrative Assistant.
(Submitted by NTA President Phil Cordella)

Moved: K. Roberts
Seconded: D. Brown
Passed Unanimously

MOTION #3

Whereas, the NTA provides for new teacher initiatives; and

Whereas, the Newburgh Preparatory Academy @ Stewart has submitted a proposal which has been reviewed by the NTA President and New Member Initiative Committee; be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors approve the New Teacher Initiative Grant for Newburgh Preparatory Academy @ Stewart.
(Submitted by NTA President Phil Cordella)

Moved: V. Pittman
Seconded: N. Sparacio
Passed Unanimously

MOTION #4

Whereas, the NTA provides for new teacher initiatives; and

Whereas, the Heritage JHS has submitted a proposal which has been reviewed by the NTA President and New Member Initiative Committee; be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors approve the New Teacher Initiative Grant for Heritage JHS as amended.
(Submitted by NTA President Phil Cordella)
Moved: K. Roberts  
Seconded: N. Sparacio  
Passed Unanimously

MOTION #5

Whereas, the District calendar indicates a second parent/teacher conference night for February, 20, 2008 be it

Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors change the date of the February 2008 Delegate Assembly to February 27, 2007.
(Submitted by NTA member Robin Grove)

Moved: S. Minard  
Seconded: D. Brown

Motion to Postpone

Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors postpone until its January meeting the above motion in order to receive additional information.

Moved: N. Sparacio  
Seconded: W. Lastowski  
Passed Unanimously

MOTION #6

Whereas, the Teaching Assistants have been working on behalf of Safe Homes; and

Whereas, the Newburgh Teachers Association supports the Teaching Assistants’ efforts with the “Safe Homes Santa Project”; and

Whereas, the Newburgh Teachers’ Association recognizes the good work done on behalf of women and children in need; be it therefore,

Resolved, that the Newburgh Teachers Association donate $250.00 to the “Safe Homes Santa Project.”
(Submitted by NTA member Pat Hunter)

Moved: P. Hunter  
Seconded: W. Lastowski  
Passed Unanimously

MOTION #7

Whereas, one of the goals of our union is to support the American Labor Movement, and

Whereas, the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation is holding its annual Labor Heroes Celebration; and
Whereas, the Newburgh Teachers’ Association has a member on the Executive Board of the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation; be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors approve the purchase of 2 tickets at $60.00 each to the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation Labor Heroes Celebration as well as a full page ad in the Labor Heroes Journal at a cost of $400.00 for a total cost of $520.00.

(Submitted by NTA Secretary Karen Roberts)

Moved: V. Pittman
Seconded: N. Sparacio

Good And Welfare:
Letter to the staff at New Windsor School reviewed.

Motion to adjourn: 6:30 PM
Moved: N. Sparacio
Seconded: P. Hunter

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Karen Roberts
NTA Secretary