BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MINUTES
December 10, 2008
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Present: Phil Cordella, Angela Sartori, Karen Roberts, David Brown, Pat Hunter, William Lastowski, Donna Liebman, Sharon Minard, James Nee, and Nancy Sparacchio.

Meeting was called to order: 4:20 PM
Approval of Minutes October 8, 2008 Meeting
Moved: D. Brown
Seconded: S. Minard
Motion Passes (8-0-1)

Approval of Minutes November 12, 2008 Meeting
Moved: A. Sartori
Seconded: N. Sparacchio
Passed Unanimously

President’s Report
1. NTA President Phil Cordella and Director Sharon Minard will be attending the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists in Atlanta this year.
2. License cover was discussed distribution and cost was covered.
3. Seniority List was requested of Human Resources.

Vice - President’s Report (Report Read to the Body)
1. Performance Conditions Committee met Mon. before Board Forum. Judy Leroy, Bev Browne, Teresita Stuart, Laurie Colacchio, Maryann Corbett, Tim Underhill, Valerie Metzger-Horton, and Barbara Goodman met with me. The meeting was productive. An extra big thank you goes to Lorraine and Lenore who devoted much time and effort to putting the binders with documents together. Dec 15 is the last performance conditions meeting scheduled for groups that didn’t meet last school year. So far, I’ve received 3 completed forms with additional information and all are from groups who met already. The additional PC Committee meeting is scheduled for Jan. Hopefully, everyone will have completed homework and recommendations to LM will be forthcoming.

2. Pendulum articles are written. It looks like we’re about ready to go. We’re waiting for one more that’s supposed to be done by Friday.

Treasurer’s Report
Report given at meeting.
Unfinished Business

NEW Business

MOTION #1
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: P. Hunter
Seconded: D. Brown

Passed Unanimously

MOTION #2
Whereas, the new member initiative serves to inform members of the working of our union, and

Whereas, GAMS has submitted a new member initiative which has been reviewed and approved by the new member initiative chair and committee as well as the NTA President, be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA Board of Directors approve the GAMS new member initiative proposal.
(Submitted by NTA President Phil Cordella)
Moved: J. Nee
Seconded: A. Sartori

Passed Unanimously

MOTION #3
Whereas, the Grievance Committee underwent a major restructuring that could be a model for other committees, and

Whereas, the Grievance Committee has been effective and seamless in defending and protecting members’ rights, therefore be it

Resolved; that the 2008-2009 William G. Riley Profile in Unionism Award be awarded to the members of the NTA Grievance Committee.
(Submitted by NTA Director James Nee)
Moved: J. Nee
Seconded: N. Sparaccio

Motion Passes (8-0-1)

MOTION #4
Whereas, National Board Certification of a professional represents the attainment of credentials that exceed standard credentialing levels; and
Whereas, National Board Certification helps to spread best practices to the classrooms and schools; and

Whereas, NYSUT encourages members to embrace the challenge of higher credentials whenever they are available in their field; and

Whereas, school psychologists can achieve national certification through a rigorous set of requirements comparable to other nationally certified professionals, including teachers; and

Whereas, NYSUT supports grant programs and subsidies to assist candidates in achieving national certifications; and

Whereas, NYSUT supports the concept of state-wide stipends to recognize who achieve national certification; therefore be it

Resolved, that NYSUT supports recognition of nationally certified school psychologists through comparable stipends offered to nationally certified teachers.

(Submitted by NTA Member Kelly Caci)
Moved: P. Hunter
Seconded: D. Liebman

Motion to table to next meeting

Moved: S. Minard
Seconded: D. Liebman

Passed Unanimously

MOTION # 5
Whereas, NYSUT supports commensurate compensation for employees based upon level of training and experience; and

Whereas, based upon “uniform salary” laws, school districts establish salary schedules on an incremental level reflecting an employees’ level of training and experience; and

Whereas, salary increments generally reflect educational degrees attained and years of experience in education; and

Whereas, the granting of an educational degree does not reflect the number of credits required to attain the degree; and

Whereas, the number of credits required to attain a Masters Degree in certain professions far exceeds the number of credits required in other professions; and

Whereas, these additional credits reflect a higher level of training; and

Whereas, current salary schedules do not account for differential levels of training among professions who are granted a Masters Degree; therefore be it
Resolved, that NYSUT supports commensurate starting salaries that reflect actual level of training of the professional, rather than recognition of the generic title of the degree attained.

(Submitted by NTA Member Kelly Caci)

Moved: K. Roberts
Seconded: N. Sparaccio

Ruled out of order by the Chair: The resolve is a local collective bargaining issue.

MOTION # 6
Whereas, The Tuskegee Airman, Inc. Major General Irene Trowell-Harris Chapter has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to deserving Newburgh graduates; and

Whereas, the NTA has supported the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. by purchasing a table at their annual Tuition Assistance Dinner Dance; be it

Resolved, that the NTA’s Board of Directors approve the purchase of a table at this year’s Tuition Assistance Dinner Dance at a cost of $800.00

(Submitted by NTA Director James Nee)

Moved: J. Nee
Seconded: N. Sparaccio

Passed Unanimously

GOOD AND WELFARE:
NTA Secretary reported that the Building Corporation Minutes were available for the members of the Building Corporation to review. The minutes will be approved at the next Building Corporation meeting.

It was suggested that an article about the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Tuition Assistance Dinner Dance be written for The Pendulum.

Grievance committee is operating in an efficient and professional manner. They are doing excellent work maintaining and moving rights to the forefront.

SMOA was discussed at Labor Management Meeting for the reconfiguration for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. Also, NTA President received good feedback about a retirement incentive.

Thank you to Lenore Giansante and Lorraine Mahon for the refreshments.

Motion to adjourn: 5:55 PM

Passed Unanimously

Moved: D. Liebman
Seconded: D. Brown

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Roberts, NTA Secretary