DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MINUTES

February 23, 2011


Schools not represented: Administration; Gardnertown; Stewart; Bishop Dunn; Sacred Heart; St. Joseph; Substitute Chapter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:15 pm.
Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of silences for Danielle Clarino Cotton; NTA retiree George Backofen; NTA retiree Joan Costa; MHS teacher Vicky Fiorsi’s brother: Officer John Falcone; Domenic Tebano’s father; Retiree Carol Maida’s mother; and TRO Director Marc Laffer’s father.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 13, 2011

Moved: N. Lorenzo
Second: J. Conn
Passes unanimously

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

1. The BOE has appointed Mr. Pizzo as Superintendent of Schools.
2. NEA Grant meeting with NYSUT ELT staff. We have $10,000 to spend over the next two years.
3. February 1, 2011 new Head Delegate newsletter was sent out.
4. Newly created NTA Notebook distributed. Items include the Governor’s budget cuts, lobbying efforts, Pink Hearts not Pink Slips campaign.
5. New laptops available for emailing our legislators and representatives after the meeting.
6. VOTE/COPE now more important than ever.
7. Flyer with lobbying events over the next few days. Return completed flyers to NTA by March 21, 2011.
8. Thanks to all the head delegates and delegates that participated in the SAVE training February 8, 2011.
10. Information about Certification issues for Teachers and Teaching Assistants available on NTA Website.
11. February 22, 2011 Reconfiguration Meeting with Elementary teachers in 7 effected schools was successful. Buildings include GAMS, HOH, GDN, FOST, BALM, NWS, and VGS.
12. Substitutes that have been working before February 1, 2011 and are scheduled to work until the end of the year are being contracted by Human Resources. If there is someone in your building who should be contracted, please call the NTA.
13. NTA Dues for the 2010 tax year are available at the NTA.
15. Public Notice of Candidates for Board of Education packets are available until April 27, 2011.
16. Central Hudson is in the process of changing bulbs and fixtures at the NTA office. Central Hudson pays 75% and we pay 25%. The energy consumption cost savings will be seen within a year.
17. Presented the letter for the preferred substitute list for AESOP.
18. NTA Facebook page has 180 likes, and the monthly activity is increased. Facebook users Allison Gaudio TA from NWS and Brian Alexander from SMS were winners of a $25 Chili’s gift card.
19. A Solidarity Rally is scheduled for Thursday March 3, 2011 at Hudson Valley Teamsters, 15 Stonecastle Road, Rock Tavern.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Report is deferred to S. Manning who will report for the Teaching Assistant Chapter.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Attached.
3. Attended February 9, 2011 meeting of the Substitute Chapter for updating the Survival Guide.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Central Compact: T. Vidi reported February 3, 2011 meeting held at GAMS included a presentation on the GAMS Science Museum and the PBIS program.

Educational Issues: J. Conn reported on two Rallies: the first is March 3, 2011 for Workers Rights at Rock Tavern, and March 16, 2011 in Yonkers for Public Education.

Grievance: L. Mangan reported there are two Stage II grievances pending for March 16, 2011.

Health and Safety: J. Daley reported that J. LeRoy will be serving on a subcommittee for Workman’s Compensation. District elevators will be updated with emergency phones during
spring break. Health Services has monthly updates on the District’s Webpage by Dr. Thomas and M. Henry. Building construction and updates continue.

**Labor Management:** J. Nee reported February 22, 2011 meeting for teachers in affected schools was well attended. Those teachers wanting to move up to the middle level will have to complete classes to be certified at that level. No MOA has been signed yet, but many good points came up. Point of information: There is no such thing as a 6th grade teacher. President Van Duser commended, as she cancelled a meeting with the new Superintendent to be here today to answer phone calls and questions from NTA members. First bargaining session will be February 24, 2011. Proposals were looked at and ground rules have been signed off already. It is not too late to make suggestions for bargaining purposes. C. Johnson-Cromer is newest member to negotiating team of D. Brown and S. Manning.

**SAVE:** B. Browne reported on the February 8, 2011 training which included Head Delegates and Administrators. Note: Removal designee is an administrator, not teacher. If a teacher has not received a follow up on a referral in more than 5 school days, they should go to the Head Delegate to get follow up.

**VOTE/COPE:** M. Olsen reported that 291 NTA members make no contribution to VOTE/COPE at this time. Delegates were invited to sign up for a VOTE/COPE power point presentation at their home schools. Head Delegates received a payroll deduction list of members in their schools. Reminder that payroll deduction starts in January.

**Retiree Chapter:** F. Gertler read a statement from RTC. Statement is attached.

**Teaching Assistant Chapter:** S. Manning reported the next Defensive Driving Class is March 19, 2011. Work will soon begin for the Starting out Healthy Fair.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None at this time.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

1. Do not listen to the rumors on the street. Call the NTA office and get the correct information.
2. E. Winfield requested conversation between RTC leadership and NTA.
3. C. Rapalje received the Making a Difference award from Valley Central School District.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 4:50 pm

Moved: J. Nee  
Second: D. Brown  
Passes Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Daley  
NTA Secretary
We are speaking today out of frustration and out of what we perceive to be a lack of respect to the approximately 600 members of the Retired Teachers’ Chapter. Members of the RTC are members of the NTA and in addition to our dues, we now pay an administrative fee to the NTA as well. For a number of years now, we have had to actually fight to make sure that our rights as members—as required by the NTA Constitution—are adhered to by our own union. As pioneers who built the NTA, we should never have been put in this position!

Despite this, the President of the NTA has refused to speak with, or answer emails or letters from our elected leaders. We believe that we deserve answers to our letters and emails, not just because we are bona fide members of the NTA, but also because it’s the right thing to do! We believe that an elected leader has a responsibility to communicate with her members, answer their questions and to meet with them in order to solve problems and to address mutual concerns. Our representatives initially proposed a meeting with the NTA President in the month of December. There was no response. After assuring one of our delegates in January that she would answer our letters and be willing to meet, our representative sent another email requesting a meeting during the first week in March. This offer was made one month ago and still not one word from the NTA. We even sent word, by email, through our liaison of our meeting request! Not only is this silence disrespectful, but it is exactly the opposite of the definition of the word “union.”

In closing, we are calling on you to schedule a meeting with our leaders, as originally proposed on any day or time convenient to you between the days of March 7 and March 10. In our view, refusing to communicate with our members through our elected leadership is a poor strategy for promoting and building “unity” which is needed now more than ever if we are all to survive the many assaults on virtually every aspect of our profession. In our report to the Delegate Assembly next month, we hope to report that we met and resolved our concerns. Thank you.