DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MINUTES
September 17, 2008

Present: Officers: Phil Cordella, Vicky Pittman, Karen Roberts, Angela Sartori
Fostertown: J. Conn, S. Minard, M. Olsen Gidney Avenue: F. Canfield, M. Scully, Heritage
Junior High: P. Hunter, L. Vinti. HJH@ Stewart: J. Daley Horizons-on-the-Hudson:
North Junior High: N. Morales Pre-K @ Renwick: E. Hart Pre K @ Washington St.:
G. Masiello, Vails Gate: C. Moriello NVSUT/AFT Delegates: J. Eitel Retirees: B. Fogarty,
J. Richards, S. DeMarco Substitute Chapter: P. Cavallo Teaching Assistants: S. Manning,
J. Mongelli B. Johnson,

Additional Attendees: Ed Issues Chair G. Pinheiro, NFA: Beverly Browne

Schools not represented: Administration, Chestnut St., Executive Dr., Gardnertown, and
West Street.

Meeting was called to order at 4:19 PM

Moment of Silence observed for: Beverly Howell

Approval of the Minutes of June 18, 2008
Moved: S. Minard Passed Unanimously
Seconded: R. Grove

President’s Report
1. A meeting has been set up for September 24 for the Extended School Year JHS teachers.
On October 23, the NFA Business department and the NTA President will meet with the
Superintendent to review that program. The Superintendent has asked the union to be
involved in a general audit and review of all programs. This may have implication come
school budget time.

2. A letter was sent to the District requesting the process for conducting investigations of
the professional staff and placement of documents in personnel folders. The response was
distributed.

Vice-President’s Report
No Report
Treasurer’s Report
1. Report given at meeting

Committee Reports
• Labor Management- Report given at meeting
• Grievance- Report given at meeting
• Health and Safety- Bus tour on August 28, 2008 of all work. Meeting will take place on Sept. 18 for summer work. If issues are in buildings please use proper channels.
• Educational Issues Advocacy- Labor walks will be taking place in the area soon. Members are encouraged to attend. A labor walk in Hyde Park will take place on November 1st. Phone banks will take place from October 27-30 and on November 3rd. Please watch for your school’s assigned night. If you cannot attend your scheduled session please attend another night. Dinner will be provided.
• Teacher Center- A number of Policy Board members took advanced training this summer. Three attended the Summer Institute in Corning, some members attended a two day training for NY Learns. Mentor/Intern Pairings need to be submitted. Staff Development offerings were limited in the past, look for new proposals.
• Nomination and Elections- Lock boxes for schools having a Delegate/Alternate election were distributed. Ballots will be distributed at the Head Delegates Meeting, Board of Directors have approved a revised Condition of Elections and the NTA Election Timeline. The timeline was distributed.
• Sabbatical- Deadline for submitting applications is February 1, 2009
• Special Events- Welcome Back Bash on the River Rose is Friday; Leadership Conference is November 14-16, 2008 at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs. Invites were mailed this week.
• ER&D- We will be training ten new research linkers, National Training for one person for Math and one person for Parent/Family Involvement. New Teacher Orientation, Substitute Orientation as well as TA Orientation have taken place for the year. Research linkers conducted the orientation sessions.
• VOTE/COPE- New Committee member has been added, a chair is still needed. Distributed flyers need to go in teacher mailboxes.
• Teaching Assistants- Defensive Driving Class 10/4/08., Breast Cancer Walk is 10/19. First 50 TA’s and first 50 Teachers that sign up on the website will get t-shirts. TA’s will be distributing pink ribbons. Several TA’s attended the LAP (Labor Action Project) Grant conference this summer. Pat Hunter and Donna Liebman will be the teacher members working on this project with the TA’s. Health Education Fair tentatively scheduled for April 25th. More information coming. NTA is hoping for a large turnout. Next month TA’s will begin collecting for the Safe Homes baskets.
• New Member Initiative- New forms went out this week. Please note the deadline for submitting proposals is March 1, 2009 and the deadline for funds to be available for each requested program is April 30, 2009. It is suggested schools plan accordingly.
• Retirees-
• Substitutes- No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS
MOTION #1
Whereas, the NTA members who are NYS Teacher Retirement System delegates will be electing a teacher member to the retirement board this November, and

Whereas, the NYSUT has endorsed Paul Farfaglia for teacher member to the retirement system, be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA endorse the candidacy of Paul Farfaglia and urge the delegates to vote accordingly.

(Submitted by NTA Board of Directors)

Moved: J. Eitel
Seconded: L. Colacchio

Passed Unanimously

MOTION #2
Whereas political action (working on behalf of endorsed candidates through phone banks, labor walks, votes, etc.) has had a positive affect on the personal and professional lives of our members; and

Whereas, NYSUT has recommended we endorse candidates who have taken a public position in opposition to tax caps on school budgets; and

Whereas, the NTA endorsement carries substantial weight with our members and their families; be it therefore

Resolved, that the Newburgh Teachers’ Association in the November 4, 2008 election take the following action:

President of the United States
Barack Obama

Vice President
Joseph Biden

U.S. Congressional District 19
John Hall

U.S. Congressional District 20
Kirsten E. Gillibrand

U.S. Congressional District 22
Maurice D. Hinchey

NYS Senatorial District 39
No endorsement

NYS Senatorial District 41
No endorsement

NYS Senatorial District 42
No endorsement

NYS Assembly District 96
No endorsement

NYS Assembly District 97
Ann G. Rabbit

NYS Assembly District 100
Thomas J. Kirwin

NYS Assembly District 101
Kevin A. Cahill

NYS Assembly District 102
Joel Miller

(Submitted by the NTA Board of Directors)
Moved: K. Roberts
Seconded: P. Hunter

Passed Unanimously
GOOD AND WELFARE
Teacher brought to NTA attention that many websites are blocked that hinder lesson planning. NTA will look into how that compares to our contract and our acceptable use policy.

From NYSUT General Counsel-No faculty should be communicating via email with students no matter what topic.

Key issue at Temple Hill will be brought to the attention of the District Health and Safety Committee.

Issues with copy paper and codes suggested some staff use central copy office. Identify any copy jobs done frequently and see your principal for a print requisition. If they avoid the issue we can follow up.

Members brought up the concern that whenever they have an educational request, they are told that there is no money due to the contingency budget. It is the district's job to provide supplies needed for instruction.

It is in our own best interest to pass the school budget each May.

J. Richards asked about sponsoring another Habitat for Humanity House.

Social Workers-Under Contract for Excellence, social workers were to be provided in every building. Six elementary schools do not have a social worker.
NTA sent a letter asking if Occupations Case Workers have caused cuts to social worker positions. We are waiting for a response.

Discussion took place about Central Administration getting a 5% raise and summer school teachers being laid off one and a half weeks into the program.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn at 5:40 PM
Moved: V. Pittman
Seconded: J. Eitel
Passed Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Roberts
NTA Secretary