DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MINUTES
September 19, 2012

Vails Gate: M. Acosta, M. Smith; Retiree Chapter: S. DeMarco, D. Morano, B. Coughlin, R. Coughlin, J. Eitel; Teaching Assistant Chapter: S. Manning, T. Brady-Lyden; NYSUT Delegate: J. Eitel; Committee Chairs: Grievance: L. Mangan, A. Sartori; Compact Committee: Theresa Vidi; Labor Management: Linda Vinti; Other Attendees: Donna Liebman, Cam Moriello

Schools not represented: Administration; Chestnut St.; Gardnertown; Washington St.; Bishop Dunn; Sacred Heart

Chapters not represented: Substitute Chapter

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 13, 2012

Moved: S. Moran
Second: S. Manning Passed Unanimously
PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. I attended the AFT convention in Detroit: The general message of the convention was that unions need to be very supportive of each other and really work for positive change with elected officials that will be supportive of labor and the middle class. There has never been a time when we needed greater involvement in the election process.

2. Teachers need to be solution driven to solve some of the great problems facing education in this country.

3. We need to form alliances with parents and community groups to show that we care about our students and have the community support us.

4. School is Cool Backpack program: The NTA donated enough money to purchase 300 backpacks to have students in our district get a good start for the school year.

5. Governor’s Education Reform Commission meeting in Newburgh Sept. 10th: Message was clear from teachers, Superintendents, and parents; more funding, less testing and more Pre-K education to level the playing field for all students.

6. Randi Weingarten was there and later at a NYSUT event in Suffern about Share My Lesson website where teachers can share what they do, find resources and become an online community. See NYSUT.org or AFT.org for more info.

7. Parent University and Kids Academy on October 6 at SUNY Orange on Grand Street: They need teachers to help out with the 9-14 age students with fun Math and Science so it can be a positive experience for the students from 10 to 2. There is a sheet to sign up in the back. It is a great way to show you are working with the community. Please sign up in the back or ask people at your school.

8. The negotiating committee has met to discuss contract concerns and work on formulating a proposal.

9. The procedures for delegate and director elections have been changed to better reflect what is in the constitution and bylaws. There are two schools that will need to hold an election on Oct. 2nd, South and GAMS. I would ask that the head delegates from those schools to meet with us after the meeting to get the ballots and ballot boxes. The new delegates will be sworn in at the Delegate Assembly on October 17th. After that meeting, the elementary delegates will remain to elect the three elementary directors. This will be followed by the high school delegates electing the high school director, and then the middle level delegates will choose the middle level director.
10. Since July 1st, we have been working in the office dealing with many specific issues that teachers have brought to our attention, including transfers, incorrect pay, and administrators not following the contract. More than 13 laid off teachers have been brought back to contract positions or long term leave positions.

11. There is a new principal at the high school and I have met with Mr. Pizzo and Mrs. Leimer to solve problems that Ms. Nodel seems to create. We will be meeting with labor management to discuss her creating a very negative and abusive environment at the high school. We are asking teachers to keep records of what is going on and make sure that she in not violating the contract. Please let us know what is going on.

12. This is the year we all need to be politically involved and working for people that will help our students, our schools, our community and our profession. From the Federal to the local level, voting, while so important is not enough. We must turn it around in Albany and help good candidates financially, and through your work. There are two walks in the area, one on October 6th and one on Oct. 20th to support our own Chris Eachus and Sean Patrick Maloney. We will be doing phone banks at the NTA from the end of October too Election Day. We need your support.

13. Lastly I have printed out copies of the MOA’s related to the APPR evaluation system. I have also written a summary sheet to explain the process and its various components. Unfortunately we all need to become expert on this so we can do more than just survive its implementation.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Welcome Back Bash is on Friday, September 23, 2012, organized by Jen Laudiero;
Attended S.A.V.E. Workshop with Beverly Browne-DeFazio; I will be attending Food Bank Dinner on September 20, 2012

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Building was Paid Off
NYSUT Back Dues Paid Off
Attached

**SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

**BOE Central Compact:** T. Vidi reported meeting was cancelled.

**Grievance:** L. Mangan reported 3 stage 2 grievances, 1 for a substitute and 2 for high school.

**Health and Safety:** J. Daley reported she went on her last NECSD Annual Summer Construction Bus Tour.

**SAVE:** B. Browne-Fazio reported there was a one day training in August on the Code of Conduct and was attended by teachers from each school along with the administrators
from each building. This was turn-key training as well as administrators and teachers hearing the same thing on the Code of Conduct. Teachers are to keep the Gold Copy from the discipline form.

Special Events: J. Laudiero organized the Welcome Back Bash on September 23, 2012, and payments would be accepted at the door.

Retirees: D. Moran reported that retirees are available to assist active teachers with phone banks etc.

Teaching Assistants: S. Manning reported Baskets for Domestic Abuse are being auctioned at the dinner for Domestic Abuse and the cost per ticket is $85.00 to attend the dinner. The TA's are again supporting Making Strides for Breast Cancer and shirts will be ordered to support the cause. SRPA Conference is in October and Brenda Johnson is setting up the Defensive Driving classes, she is waiting on the dates.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION # 1:

The NTA Supports the CTU

Whereas, the striking Chicago Teachers’ Union needs the support of all their union brothers and sisters across the country during this time of contention, and

Whereas, AFT President Randi Weingarten stated the AFT members “stand firmly with the CTU and we will support its members in their efforts to secure a fair contract that will enable them to give their students the best opportunities.”, and

Whereas, NYSUT stands united with the Chicago Teachers’ Union in its fight for fairness and respect, and

Whereas, the Newburgh Teachers’ Association shares much in common with the Chicago Teachers’ Union, including working without a contract and working with factors such as poverty, exposure to violence, hunger, homelessness, and other social issues, and

Whereas, there may come a time where we, the NTA, will need the support of our union brothers and sisters across the country,

Whereas, now more than ever, when all unions are under attack, are misunderstood by the public, and vilified by big business and some political leaders, there is a need to stand in solidarity with other unions, be it therefore

Resolved, that the NTA encourage all its members to write and send letters of support to Karen Lewis, President of CTU Local 1, and be it further

Resolved, that the NTA Board of Directors pass and send a resolution of support to the CTU, and be it further
Resolved, the NTA enclose with our resolution of support a donation of $1000 to the CTU Solidarity Fund, so our union brothers and sisters in Chicago know that their union brothers and sisters in Newburgh fully stand with them in solidarity.

(Submitted by David Brown)
(Recommended by the NTA Board of Directors)

Moved: J. Leroy
Second: J. Eitel

Passed unanimously

GOOD AND WELFARE:

Chris Eachus was introduced by President Plichta. Chris Eachus is a teacher in NECSD and is currently a County Legislature in Goshen. Chris has been teaching 36 years, with 11 of those years in a private school. He is running for NYS Senate and he spoke about Tier 6, and the 2% tax cap. He also spoke about making changes in Albany such as: fair and equitable evaluations of teachers; getting rid of punitive teacher measures, SLO’s testing pre and post assessments and the time it takes away from teaching; he informed the delegation on the upcoming vote by the NYS Senate and Assembly to overturn the Triborough Amendment in January 2013, a bill which is attached to giving themselves raises. The raises the Senate and Assembly will give themselves for part-time work would go from $89,000.00 to $130,000.00. Chris also spoke about ideas floating around Albany, such as, all tiers contributing more money to retirement, and that the state wants to borrow money from the Pension funds.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 5:54 PM

Moved: V. Marin
Second: M. Scully

Passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Colacchio
NTA Secretary