Many other topics were brought to our attention and we appreciate the time put into filling out this survey.

There were younger teachers concerned with maintaining health insurance for our retirees, as well as, more senior teachers were concerned with job security issues. We heard the elementary teachers loud and clear, expressing their concern over the last week of school in June. We will try to rectify this inequity. We currently rank 4th out of 17 districts in the county in terms of 25 year cumulative salary.
I was quite pleased and honored to be included in the Professional Learning Communities Workshop. The presentation of the workshop was quite collaborative and interesting. The information was presented, explained, and put into practice right then and there. Everyone participated and was included. The sessions were professional, yet relaxed, to promote positive and interactive feedback.

I can see THA using this model as an ongoing practice. It enables communication and positive development to occur. This provides for better education for the students. The teachers are empowered to have an open line of communication. There can only be a better and warmer sense of environment in which to teach. Teamwork will be facilitated. I will look forward in helping to implement this within THA!!! Thank you for providing me with this opportunity. This inspired me to investigate the possibility of becoming an ELT presenter.

Bernadette Saladino, Special Education Teacher at Temple Hill Academy
I participated in the NYSUT Professional Development Achievement Gap Initiative hosted by the Newburgh Teachers’ Association on December 7 and 8, 2009. This seminar was an enlightening experience that I am sure will be useful to both my colleagues and me. I feel the information that I obtained will allow my colleagues and me to pursue various avenues to work together to solve classroom challenges, as well as, school-wide challenges.

I believe the many protocols discussed at the conference will be used in different ways to discuss, share, and possibly solve ongoing problems we as teachers experience. Once all teachers in my building have been trained, I think our school will be able to use the many protocols to assist both new and veteran teachers with common problems we see at every grade level. Conducting these mini-brainstorming sessions will allow us to collaborate, come up with new ideas and tactics to common problems, and express concerns that we have. The sessions will also unify us to better serve our students together. The hope for our school is that we use the many resources we have among our faculty to better reach all students through a variety of learning techniques that we share with each other.

*Megan Connolly, Grade 1 Teacher at Vails Gate*

Being part of the Professional Learning Communities Workshop has me convinced that what we learned during the two-day workshop will be used in many ways in our building. Having the knowledge of the different types of protocols that can be used, the administration will use this in meetings that will provide structure for conversation and get to the point at hand. By doing so, everyone will be able to work collaboratively in providing conversation among all colleagues to learn about aspects of teaching and learning.

*Evelyn LeVine, Teaching Assistant at Fostertown*

**NTA Leadership: Focus on the Contract**

*On the stage at the contract update session were Newburgh Teachers’ Association officers: Ellen Hart, Jeanne Daley, Judy LeRoy and Patricia Van Duser, along with the Negotiation Team of: Lead Negotiator Jim Nee, Billy Lastowski, and David Brown.*
Why I walk!

Angie D. Latham
GAMS

October 18th I walked in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Woodbury Commons. I walked because I am a 4 year breast cancer survivor. I walked because I want myself and others to continue to have birthdays. I walked because this past summer I lost my mom to this horrible disease. I walked because I want to make sure my son, Loren, never has to feel the pain of the loss I am feeling. I walked because Team GAMS walked for me and with me. I walked and will continue to walk until there is no longer a reason to walk!

Nancy Dougan
Fostertown

I walk for our mothers, sisters, and daughters so that they may never know the heartbreak of ever hearing that they, or other loved ones, will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Barbara Butrick
New Windsor

I walk because I can. Since my diagnosis of breast cancer in September 2007, I appreciate every day so much more. My hope is that one day a cure can be found so that others, especially my loved ones, will never have to hear the words “you have cancer.” Walking lets us join together in our symbolic fight against breast cancer.

Michael Olsen
Fostertown

After walking the 3.1 miles this year in the rain and cold, it felt great knowing that my efforts were going towards an amazing cause. I feel it is my obligation to walk and raise money for the fight against breast cancer. Why? I walked because I am a son, a husband, a brother, an uncle, and a father. Male or female, our walking and donations are there to support the future for all of us.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

A great big “Thank You” to all of the members who braved the elements at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 18, at the Woodbury Commons. Your continued support to this worthy cause is greatly appreciated. A special thank you goes to Barbara Butrick for coordinating our participation in the event.