Minutes
NTA Substitute Teachers’ Chapter
September 30, 2009

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by NTA Treasurer Ellen Hart.
Eight substitutes were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:
There were no minutes from the May 27, 2009 meeting.

NTA Officer’s Report:
Report was given by Ellen Hart.
1. The questions and problems concerning AESOP posed in prior meetings were not communicated to Human Resources.
2. The NTA is working to get teachers hired back.
3. In February, negotiations for a new contract will begin. It is a difficult year because aid has been cut.
4. Parent choice is making uneven enrollments in elementary schools. Classes in the Gifted Program at Horizons-on-Hudson are small. Gardnertown, Fostertown, and Balmville are overcrowded. The District has seven acres on Chestnut Street where they may build another elementary school.
5. The District’s directors have moved to Stewart.
6. Ellen Hart’s email address is: echart@newburghta.com.

Unfinished Business:
1. Substitutes are still find it very difficult to get in.
2. There are a large number of substitutes, but many have no interest in education. Preference should be given to the substitute who has been with the district for years and who is certified.
3. According to the contract, teachers can indicate a preference for a particular substitute. An effort will be made to honor the request (preferred list in AESOP),
but this does not mean that a specific job can be held and guaranteed for a specific sub. One method, which has met with some success by substitutes looking for jobs, has been to work with the Main Officer personnel, i.e. sharing their availability as well as ability to fill in on an emergency basis, etc.

4. If substitutes put restrictions on when they can be called, they will get fewer calls.

New Business:
1. Instead of identifying the job as “Creative Specialist,” AESOP should say what the special is.
2. Schools seem to be canceling specials rather than hiring more substitutes. Is this a new District policy?
3. Parking information should be given in the teacher assignment.
4. Pocketbooks should be left in the car.

Good and Welfare:

Adjournment:
Meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2010, NTA Offices, 52 Pierces Road, Newburgh, NY at 4:15pm.

Minutes were recorded by Linda DeWitt.