NTA TEACHING ASSISTANT'S CHAPTER
Building Representative Meeting
November 8, 2011

Executive Committee: S. Manning, T. Brady-Lyden, B. Johnson, P. Favata.
NTA Liaison: J. LeRoy.
Schools: Fostertown: G. Nichols; Gardnerstown: M. O'Connell; Heritage; L. Simpson; Horizons: L. Tucker; J. Knabbe; Meadow Hill: L. Maier; New Windsor: B. Butrick; M. DePuy; NFA: M. Leonard; NFA North: C. Derham; South Middle School: T. Finch; Temple Hill: J. LaCoppola
Schools not represented: Balmville; GAMS.

CALL TO ORDER:
Meeting called to order: 4:40 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
October 11, 2011

Moved: G. Nichols Second: L. Maier Passes: Unanimously

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
- BR’s should have their newburgh.ta.com screen names. Contact Lorraine if you are having problems. 562-8120.
- NTA Notebook should be in all schools.
- Remember to get out and vote today.
- Substitutes for TA’s should be called in seniority order. When a substitute TA becomes available after a “long term” position ends, that TA should notify school buildings/HR that they are available to be called for other buildings once again.
- Contributions for NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund are ongoing. Links can be located on NYSUT as well as at NTA.com.
- Tuesday November 15th is SRP Day. Invites and stickers for each building were handed out to BR’s. See you at the NTA building at 4:30.
- T. Brady-Lyden attended the NYSTRS at Saratoga November 6th & 7th. She reported that the website is the best resource for information and is extremely user friendly. The site also allows for easy to use computer conferencing. Members considering retirement should get in touch with NYSTRS 2-5 years prior to retirement for the best personal up to date information.

TREASURY REPORT
COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SRP Conference Reports:
C. Derham attended the Not Everyone Cries workshop. The class gave good information on children living with trauma: identifying indicators is extremely important as early intervention and support is vital. She recommends it as a possible PD for TA’s.

G. Nicholas reported on the Contract Negotiations workshop. It gave information regarding what to talk about and what not to talk about at negotiations. It also touched on pros and cons in negotiating certain points. She also attended a TRS session, reporting that members should attend local informational presentations whenever possible. It is a good way to obtain information and a good place to learn what questions should be asked when preparing to retire.

S. Manning added that in attending the Contract Negotiations session, it is clear that the Newburgh TA’s are fortunate in being guided and supported by the Teacher’s Negotiating Team as well.

L. Maier attended an Aide & Assistant workshop explaining the difference in the two. The NYSUT website does list the state differences. Middletown TA’s would like to get in touch with NTATA.

Labor Management: An APPR sub-committee is in effect for the teachers at this time. TA APPR’s are still in place.

Grievance: One is being considered at this time.

Sick Bank: One short term use is needed by a member at this time.

Community: B. Butrick spoke about the good turnout and great weather for the walk. A concern on why/how the TA shirts differed from the Teacher shirts was raised. The main concern was that the TA shirt did not have the dedication to Danielle Clarino-Cotton as the Teacher shirts had. J. LeRoy reports that if blame need be laid she would take responsibility for not conveying the printing information to B. Butrick. It was also asked why we are putting NTATA on the shirts. Financing for the TA shirts comes out of the NTATA budget. TA’s are an umbrella chapter, with the official title of the chapter being NTATA and we take pride in being teaching assistants.

Safe Homes: It was a very enjoyable event. Our ad was placed in the 25th anniversary program. Again, congratulations to NFA as the recipients of this years’ Hope Award. The students and teachers enjoyed the evening. Project Santa is now underway for the Moms and children that Safe Homes helps protect. There is an ongoing need for dry goods, food store gift cards, personal care products, etc. Please let our members know that small gifts for women and children are needed. Your building can adopt a Safe Home family and help them with gifts and everyday needed supplies this holiday. If interested contact Sheila Manning.

Vote/Cope: Information packets given to each BR with letter and payroll deduction form. Please no combined checks. Contact information in packet. November 4th is cut-off date.

Political Action: Reminder- VOTE! View the NTA Facebook page for up-to-date union action information.

Grapevine: Congratulations to P. Sansevero and L. Tucker on their first edition of this school year. Articles are now needed for the next edition. BR’s were given Grapevine sheets to be filled out for any info/article a member might like to share. You can also send in a question that you want answered regarding the NTATA.
Central Compact: November 3rd  Diane Lennon spoke on Newburgh Scores. The NECSD website has new links and videos. Parent University site has information on workshops for parents to attend. Registration ends December 3rd. Also Meadow Hill and Temple Hill schools have raised their energy savings from 18% to 23%! Solar and wind energy is being looked into for our district too.

Health & Safety: A push to get a committee in each building is underway.

Scholarship: N/A till after winter break

Teacher Center: N/A. T. Finch reports she is not part of the Teachers Center.

GOOD & WELFARE:

J. LeRoy thanked the TAC for the Safe Homes invite to the dinner. She found it very enjoyable.

Concern rose regarding rumors on health benefits, school budget problems, title monies affecting the number of TA’s, and the future of TA’s in the district. J. LeRoy reminded everyone that one of our rolls as a Building Rep is to turn around the negativity and misunderstandings by asking members what would solve the misconceptions they have. Sheila Manning reminded the BR’s that a concern form for members was handed out at our last meeting. Concerns cannot be addressed if the TAC Executive Committee is not made aware of what the members concerns are. Please encourage members to send the form to any Executive Member. Also, the form has space for the member to provide any ideas/suggestion they may have on addressing the concern. Please keep attending BOE meetings. It is a great way to see/hear how our district works and thinks. It also gives the board members the faces that go along with what is otherwise just names on a paper.

Tax Cap, economy, and reduced state funding are making things tough.

A question was raised: Who is responsible if a student on crutches falls while going up steps escorted by a TA? Answer will be forth coming.

ADJOURNED:

Motion to adjourn at 6:10 PM

Moved: B. Butrick
Second: B. Johnson

Passes Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa M. Brady-Lyden
Recording Secretary
NTA Teaching Assistant Chapter