

CTAA
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Monday June 15, 2009

Convened at 4:00 p.m. in Felix Festa Middle School Main Library Classroom (E-108)

Meeting conducted by CTAA President Fran Rutigliano

Fran conducted roll call.

Schools represented: Bardonia, Birchwood, Congers, FFMS-AWing, FFMS-CWing, FFMS-DWing, Lakewood, Laurel Plains, Link, New City, North High School, Strawtown, West Nyack, Woodglen

Also in attendance: Retired Past President Patricia Zaccaro

Not attending: FFMS-E Wing, Little Tor, South High School

New Business:

~ **Continued success to both CTAA Scholarship winners:**

* ***Andrea Gorman*** is a Clarkstown South High School student who will be attending SUNY Oneonta. Andrea is the daughter of Lakewood TA Ellen Gorman. She has sent us a thank you letter.

* ***Padraig Gargan*** is a Pearl River High School student and son of Little Tor TA Tech Ann Gargan.

~ **Professional Staff Development 2009 - 2010:**

- PSD budget has been reduced by 70%. Therefore, not as many workshops will be offered on My Learning Plan.
- Take advantage of summer workshops.
 - If you are interested in one that is already filled, contact Valerie Henning-Piedmont direct. She may be able to find a spot for you. *(Remember, it's all about who you know. Try! It couldn't hurt).*

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- Contact your building principal early in the school year to be able to participate in staff meetings before school, after school, or on Superintendent's Conference Days.
 - Two (2) hours of staff meetings must be provided for TA staff development.
 - *You may attend *only* in your own school
 - *You must submit a **prior course approval form** for these and any graduate and undergraduate courses you may be taking.
- Working towards your 75 hours of Professional Development? Be sure to read and retain the letter from Dr. Henning-Piedmont regarding the teaching assistant III certificates.

~ **Reasonable Assurance Letters:**

- Full-time, part-time, and leave replacement TAs should have received a letter from Jeffrey Sobel, Director of Personnel.
 - The error in the full-time letter will not affect your full-time position for the 2009-2010 school year.
 - All part-time positions will be presented to the Board of Education with principal recommendation on June 24, 2009. Keep in mind that this is based upon student need and population.

~ **Retirements:**

- We wish good health, happiness, and fun to our "lucky seven (7)" retiring TAs: Ann Marie Chiavelli, Phyllis Curreri, Susan Kohenek, Lorraine O'Connor, Carol Mastro, and Pat Zaccaro, as they begin a new chapter in their lives.
 - Delicious cookies and beverage were shared in celebration of our retirees.
 - A long-stem pink carnation and certificate were presented to each retiree.

~ **Opening Day (Can 'ya wait?):**

- Because Labor Day falls on September 7th, Superintendent's Conference Days have been scheduled on September 3rd and 4th.

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--- According to contract, we are required to attend *one (1)* of these days. Please be sure to plan your vacation/Labor Day Weekend accordingly. To date, Fran has not been informed as to which day the superintendent will be holding her conference.

~ Budget Vote:

- CCSD budget is up for another vote tomorrow. Budget information can be obtained on the website supportccsd.com.
 - It is important that as we approach negotiations, all employees residing in the Clarkstown School District are urged to get out and vote.
 - In the near future there will be a link on the clarkstownteachers.org website allowing you to oppose the TierV proposition.

~ Negotiations:

- In early fall, membership will be asked to make negotiation recommendations which will be reviewed by a committee. Please give some thought to this issue. Negotiations usually begin in Spring.

~Benefits:

- While on vacation, remember to utilize NYSUT benefits which include car rentals, hotel reservations, and Buyers Edge for purchases.
- Attorneys are available during the summer for wills, closings, health care proxies, etc. Attorney benefits also include each member's parents and children.

~Welcome Back Party:

- Teaching assistants are urged to attend the 2009-2010 party. Have fun spending some time with your co-workers on September 11th at the Haverstraw Marina.
 - Details to follow.

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~ Sick Bank:

- Thank you to all who have contributed. Through your generosity, we have been able to cover our fellow TAs who would have had to take sick time without pay.
 - Please try to donate ½ or 1 day to help a fellow T.A.
 - Each 1 day donated equals two 1/2 days
 - Any unused days are carried over to the following year...we do not lose any
 - You will be notified when your donated day(s) is/are used
 - Check your paystubs to be sure sick days coincide with the days used.

~ Thank you:

- Fran thanked all of her Building Reps and Executive Board for making her job and her life a little easier this first year as President of CTAA. "All of you have undertaken your roles in whatever capacity with responsibility and professionalism," she stated. She especially thanked Moriah Olsen for all of her help and guidance throughout this and past years.

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

~Building Reps:

If you know you will be retaining your position as building rep, please let Bobbie know at rfanelli@ccsd.edu or bobbiejoe1969@hotmail.com. Please also notify her if you can no longer serve. She will contact you again in September.

Of course, we all thank Fran for a job well done in an extremely difficult first year as CTAA President (not that any year is easy).

A very happy, safe, and restful summer to you all!

Respectfully submitted.

Bobbie Fanelli, Secretary

