

Minutes of General Membership Meeting Tuesday November 18, 2009

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

Meeting conducted by CTA President Fran Rutigliano

Fran conducted roll call.

Schools represented: Bardonia, Birchwood, Congers, FFMS-AWing, FFMS-CWing, FFMS-DWing, FFMS-E Wing, Lakewood, Laurel Plains, Link, Little Tor, North High School, Strawtown, West Nyack, Woodglen

Also in attendance: Labor Relations Specialist Moriah Olsen

Not attending: New City, South High School,

Old Business:

~ SRP Recognition

- Happy SRP week
- Thank you, Bobbie and Executive Board for distribution of SRP stickers to school buildings and building reps for distribution to our members
- Thank you to CTA for supporting us during SRP Recognition

~ TA Hours

- We thought situations have stabilized, however...
- Does TA usage make sense in your building?
- Now that we receive postings of various positions, do not hesitate to apply
 - Call building principal to schedule appointment

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~ *CTA*

- Thank you CTA for supporting the motion brought forward by CTAA and voting to make a \$100 contribution to Hospice in memory of Tom Prestia, husband of Carol Prestia, our former CTAA President, who passed away this past summer.

~ *CTA Webpage*

- Updated and redesigned
 - Refer to it often for benefits news, drivers' ed. classes, and to link to our CTAA webpage.
- Please register on *Constant Contact*...click on the blue button and "*Add me to the Member List.*" Click on the form that you are a CTAA member.

~ *Vision Program*

- Check CTA website for information regarding new vision program. Forms are on CTA website: ClarkstownTeachers.org

~ *Member Benefits Program*

- Our Benefits Program through CTA has nominated North High School teaching assistant Peggy Finch to the Board.
- CTA will vote on her nomination next month

~ *Program Evaluation Committee*

- Three (3) teaching assistants were selected to sit on this new committee. This committee will review and seek proposals from research universities who have experience in implementing programs that result in improvements in the achievements of our special needs students.
 - Committee will then make recommendations as to which university's proposal would be appropriate for our district.
- At this time, the committee is seeking to expand its membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Program Evaluation Committee, please e-mail Fran or Jeff Sobel.

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~ *Meeting with Dr. Leh*

- Fran requested a meeting to discuss TA responsibilities.
 - Any TA who feels the need to discuss any issue with Fran before her meeting with Dr. Leh, please e-mail Fran at franny414@yahoo.com

~ *Sick Bank*

- Thank you to all who have donated. We have begun the year with a generous donation list to meet the needs of our membership.
- Donations are always accepted and can be as little as ½ day.

~ *Professional Staff Development:*

- Remember to register for workshops on My Learning Plan. --- TAs cannot just show up for workshops and expect the presenter to allow you to attend, as there is a limited number permitted to attend each workshop.
 - There is a good chance you will not receive credit and will need to attend another workshop.

~ *Code of Conduct*

- Always be mindful that as educators and employees of CCSD, we are obliged to conduct ourselves in a professional manner.
 - Situations may arise both in school and out of school which could violate the district's code of conduct and jeopardize your position.

~ *Building Representatives*

- Should you be asked to meet with a teaching assistant and someone from Central Administration, it is advisable that you decline the request and ask Central to *call Fran*.
 - Such a meeting could possibly involve a legal matter and should be dealt with by Moriah, our NYSUT LRS.

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~VOTE COPE

- Governor Patterson has proposed mid-year cuts in spending and implementation of TierV.
 - If these cuts are put into place, Clarkstown would need to cut \$2.8 million.
- Please support VOTE COPE, our teachers and NYSUT representatives working to combat these proposed reductions.
 - See your teacher building rep. to set up your contribution to *VOTE COPE*.
 - Union dues do not fund VOTE COPE.

~ Travel Assistance Benefit

- NYSUT is pleased to announce the new Travel Assistance Program sponsored by Zurich Travel Assist which provides global travel assistance for all active NYSUT members.
 - Program will put you in touch with a network of providers that can address medical, legal, informational, and personal assistance of travelers.
 - You will have access to physicians, hospitals, clinics, medical transportation companies, and other emergency professionals if needed at no cost to you.
- Before you plan your next trip, please check NYSUT Member Exclusives in the Member Center at www.nysut.org.

~ Negotiations

- Our present contract will expire in June 2010.
 - You should have received a letter asking if you are interested in becoming a member of the negotiating committee.
 - Committee includes Fran, CTAA Executive Board members, and LRS Moriah.
 - We are asking for volunteers from the secondary and Birchwood schools.

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- Being on the negotiating committee does not mean you will be at the negotiating table...that will consist of Fran, Moriah, and Bobbie Fanelli as our note-taker.
- Please begin to think about issues that are important to you as we begin our committee and discussion process.

~ *182nd Day...Fran reiterated*

- Principals will now sign/initial each section of hours as they are completed in order to keep accurate records. Be sure they hand your form back to you so that you will be able to enter future hours towards your 182nd day.
- After you have completed the amount of hours comparable to your regular work day, the form will be submitted ***by your principal to payroll.***
- It is ***important*** that whenever working hours towards your 182nd day, you sign in at your building.

New Business:

- ~ E-mail Fran if you know of a TA interested in subbing for PEC for 4 weeks at FFMS.
- ~ Congers TA hours
- ~ Discussion on various issues ensued.

Meeting adjourned 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Fanelli, Secretary