

CTAA
Minutes of General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2009

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

Schools represented: Bardonia, Birchwood, Congers, FFMS-A Wing, FFMS-C Wing, FFMS-D Wing, FFMS-E Wing, Lakewood, Laurel Plains, Link, Little Tor, New City, North High School, Strawtown, West Nyack, Woodglen

Also in attendance: NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Moriah Olsen

Not attending: South High School

Meeting conducted by CTAA President Fran Rutigliano

Fran conducted roll call.

New Business:

~ *Thank you:* to T.A. Dina Reisman for getting the CTAA webpage up and running.

--- In addition to My Learning Plan, you will find plenty of useful information along with CTAA minutes

--- Go onto the CTA website (clarkstownteachers.org) and scroll to **CTAA**

~ *2009-10 Calendar:* the three (3) half days included for professional development will need to be clarified for teaching assistants

~ *Congratulations:* to our recently tenured T.A.'s Doreen Maritato, Patricia Owens, Sophia Fantino, Lynn Gorman, Delia Sweeney, Pamela Barnett, Lisa Hendler, Neil Rosenthal, Eileen Collamore, Annette Molinini, Patricia Cioffi, Joshua Einhorn, and Peter Modaferrì

~ *Certification workshop:* thank you to T.A.'s for responding to Jeff Sobel's survey

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- *There is a need for workshop to be presented by Lisa Coppola of BOCES in the Spring*
- *Will be listed on My Learning Plan and will count towards 8-hour contractual obligation and/or NYS Department of Education hours*
- *Thank you, Pat Villari for getting the ball rolling*

- ~ *Professional Staff Development:*
 - *All T.A.'s must complete their 8 hour contractual obligation for 2008-09 by June 30th*
 - *New offerings beginning July 2009 will be credited towards 2009-2010 school year*

- ~ *Defensive Driving:*
 - *We are aware that a February class conflicted with Open House at the high schools*
 - *There may be another class in either May or June*
 - *It's possible there will be a class held in the summer 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

- ~ *NYS Teachers' Retirement:*
 - *Retirement seminar sponsored by Rockland Teachers Association will be held on March 18, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. in the Felix Festa Cafeteria*
 - *If you're planning on retiring this year, you must notify Ingrid Stafford in personnel by March 30th*
 - * *This will guarantee your receiving your vacation bonus by September 30th, sick days payment, etc.*
 - * *Check your retirement benefits at www.nystrs.org or call 1-800-348-7298*

- ~ *Sick Bank:*
 - *Thank you to all who have contributed. Unfortunately, our sick bank has been quite busy.*
 - * *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*

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* Check your paystubs to be sure sick days coincide with the days used

~ **VOTE/COPE:** Legislative Branch of our Union

--- Met with our representatives in Albany regarding money for education

* We will be receiving requests for payroll deductions to fund VOTE/COPE...please be as generous as you can

~ **Budget:**

--- Fran and Greg Montague are members of the budget committee and are committed to ensuring their viewing each item in the budget line by line. Loretta also attends budget meetings.

--- Projections from Albany show a 2.9 million dollar reduction in aid to Clarkstown.

--- There are many rumors circulating but we are assured by Administration and the Board of Ed there will be no classroom cuts

--- **Moriah** reported that word out of Albany is that no one knows how Federal stimulus is divided.

*Getting the budget passed is a big concern

*Contingency increase if budget does not pass = 4%

*Bond and Budget are significantly different...union stands **neutral on bond**

--- **Moriah** addressed questions from the floor:

***Re: layoff** - by law, there is no date for notifying of layoff

- if a T.A. is laid off and then recalled, it is considered not a break in service

- no matter what is suggested...**DO NOT RESIGN!**

- if hours are reduced to below 20 hours and benefits are lost, Cobra must be provided

-tenure does not protect from layoffs...it protects from termination without due process

*It is strongly suggested that tutoring is not done on school property.

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~ *Dell Discount*: 7% discount for NYSUT members on most products including laptops, printers, plasma screens, and digital cameras. Does not apply to already discounted items.

--- Purchases may be made online @:

www.memberbenefits.nysut.org Provide NYSUT Member Benefits Trust ID #US72614970 to receive discount.

~ *Scholarship*: for a graduating son or daughter of a CTAA member

--- information will be forthcoming in March

--- student will be required to submit essay which will be read by our scholarship committee headed by Loretta.

~ *Relay for Life*:

--- *in need of a captain*

--- will be held at Rockland Community College in June

--- please e-mail *Greg Montague* if interested in participating.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Bobbie Fanelli, Secretary