

Byram Hills Teachers Association
Meeting of Executive Council
January 9, 2007

Attendance: D Bruskewicz, J Black, B DiMartino, M Delamonico, L Bastone, B Gallivan, A Ancona, M Roberts, S Tyrrell, P Cerreta, L Jones, C Lewick, C Beck, D Glim, J Rowell, K Russell, S Davies, M Goodman. Excused: T Slosek,

The agenda of January 9 was adopted.
Minutes of December 5 were accepted with a small change in the Executive Session.

Treasurer's Report was accepted. Michele Delamonico asked how the check to Kate Robbins should be handled, since those monies were received by BHTA from donations, then one check was gifted to Kate. We suggested "miscellaneous in" and "out." Bob DiMartino reported that Wachovia Bank did not want to cash his stipend because the check number was "out of order" since they come from ADP. Michele will call bank.

The gift from BHTA members to Kate Robbins was for \$1056. The other professional associations also wrote one gift check, and the total for all was above \$2500.

D. Bruskewicz asked the Audit Committee of Bastone, Ancona and Cerreta to complete the audit in time for it to be received by NYSUT by March 1.

President D. Bruskewicz reported on the Board of Education meeting of January 5. There was a construction update to the Board. Ribbon cutting ceremonies are scheduled at each building on January 19th, and the schools will be open to the community that Saturday for tours. The District audit report was presented to the BOE. The Attendance plan and Prudent Use of Sickdays policy is on the agenda for discussion and vote in the executive session of the BOE. John Chambers will advise Bruskewicz of the disposition. At that time, presentations will be made in each building to explain both.

SWSCHP sent a letter to the membership alerting them that several area hospitals would no longer be covered by Blue Cross. The latest news via the website is that this problem has been solved, and the hospitals are in fact covered. Some anesthesia groups are now covered as well, but the 10-day notification will be strictly enforced. If members have problems, they should call Herb Friedman.

Exec VP Jane Black reported that 265 members of BHTA contributed to Vote-COPE, with an average contribution of \$25.16, for a total of \$6651.28. Jane suggested that contributions made by payroll deduction should be enrolled in the Spring for implementation next Fall, since September opening meetings are so hectic. Diane Glim suggested that members be asked to increase their individual contribution. Harry Wilson has furnished ideas on how to

make our solicitation more effective. BHHS is the school in need of the most improvement.

A NYSUT 403b Workshop was held on December 11 at HCC. 35 members attended and were very pleased with the information they received. Other workshops can be offered, if there is an interest: "Identity Theft", "Understanding Investments" or a repeat of "403b". A suggestion was made that a more comprehensive 3-hour workshop could be offered, with a dinner break.

Exec VP Bob DiMartino announced the NYSUT Food Drive and has furnished posters to each building VP. 20% of Westchester residents are "food insecure" and look to the Food Patch for assistance. All donations should be in BHHS faculty lounge by Feb 13. Cheryl Beck said she will arrange transportation with John.

Bob also asked for updates for the Newsletter, which will come out in late February.

A District-wide Health Services meeting will take place on January 17th at 4 pm. The panel will be made up of consultants, the BH health services staff, and representatives from various groups in the BH community. One teacher from each building will be on the panel: David Bruskevicz, Jane Black, Susan Tyrrell and Marlana Roberts, or their alternates. In anticipation of this meeting, consultants have conducted interviews of different groups within the BH community, but not of teachers.

The Teacher Center Policy Board needs at least one teacher representative from Byram Hills, and may need two if Marna Weiss needs to step down. The TC Policy Board meets approximately 4 times a year on a Thursday. Interested members may speak to Marna concerning the time commitment. VP's should ask for volunteers in each building.

Please contact Janine Guastella to sign up for interview training on January 26th. All BHTA members should have this training.

The results of the RA delegation election are: J. Black, D. Bruskevicz, B. DiMartino with T. Slosek as alternate. The 2007 NYSUT Representative Assembly will be held in Washington, DC on April 26-28.

Executive session followed.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:21.

Respectfully submitted by Loretta Bastone, Recording Secretary