

Byram Hills Teachers Association
Meeting of Executive Council
April 10, 2007

The agenda for April 10 was accepted with additions.
The minutes of March 6 meeting were accepted as amended.
The Treasurer's Report for March was accepted.

President David Bruskevicz gave his report:
NYSUT rep Harry Wilson has been updating various locals regarding Weingarten rights and will come to Byram Hills to educate us. Jane Black learned that NYSUT will try to remedy the recent interpretation by means of legislation, and will lobby for the change through VOTE COPE. Harry has counseled that BHTA rely on past practice to assure member rights.

BOE meeting concentrated mostly on budget considerations for next year. The budget will be finalized after 2 more meetings in time for the May 15th vote. Staff increases were considered: 0.2 Math at BHHS, CH tech teacher moved to full-time (+ 0.4), half-time guidance at HCC, half-time health-services coordinator for district (as an outgrowth of the committee review of district practices). Other staffing searches have not resulted in a desirable candidate: guidance chair and science chair. Interim Principal Gerard Finelli will stay on at Coman Hill for another year.

Byram Hills representatives to the Teacher Center have been chosen: Laura Jones and Lila Horn. College of New Rochelle is granting graduate credit at TC; Superintendents Chambers and Taylor are considering allowing graduate credits for Byram Hills faculty in support of TC. David will advise us of the decision. In general, the District looks favorably on courses that are district initiatives, and also responds to BHTA member input as to the necessity of other courses.

Jackie Taylor will share a letter with David which could be used to solicit donations in honor of Dr. Robert Pavlica, donations to be used for a scholarship in his name. A faculty team has been formed for the walk-a-thon in honor of Dr. Pavlica, and donations can also be sent directly to the scholarship fund.

Bob Di Martino asked for newsletter items. He will include a write-up of the May 11 Relay for Life. The Newsletter will be out in early May.

BHTA will meet on May 15. The school budget vote is also on May 15. BHTA will do a mailing and a phone call to NYSUT members who reside in our district to remind them to vote.

May 7,8 is the next meeting in Albany of the Committee of 100. David cannot go due to AP exams, so an alternate is needed. Several important issues affecting

teacher retirement will be discussed. Vote COPE will actively lobby on behalf of teachers. Currently, TRS is fully funded and in good financial shape.

Aug 15-17 is Summer Leadership Conference at the Doubletree in Somerville, NJ. There are many course offerings of interest to new or veteran BHTA members. Please register by Friday, April 20th.

AFT Quest Conference, addressing broad educational issues will be held on July 12-15, at the Hilton in Washington, DC. Please indicate an interest in attending as soon as possible.

Each building needs to appoint a Nominating Committee for BHTA execs and reps. The election will take place on May 30th. Please notify David with names of committee members.

Executive session followed.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:36

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Bastone, Recording Secretary