

Byram Hills Teachers Association
Meeting of Executive Council
October 10, 2006

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

The meeting came to order at 3:59.

The agenda for October 10 was approved.

Minutes of September 12 meeting were accepted as corrected.

M. Delamonico presented the Treasurer report for September; report was accepted.

Jane Black reported on Vote COPE contributions. She will furnish each building VP with members who chose payroll deduction, so that only the other members will be solicited. Remind staff that only 5% of contributions go to support political candidates; the remainder goes to support NYSUT's agenda for the membership.

On Oct 24th, Byram Hills will man the phone banks at NYSUT offices in Tarrytown. All Council members are encouraged to participate. Be there at 4:00. A light supper will be served and we should be done before 7 pm.

The Cancer Walk is on 10/15: Bob DiMartino distributed T-shirts to registered walkers.

Bob DiMartino announced that the first newsletter is out. An article addressing the new attendance plan is featured: it is an excerpt from the contract. The next newsletter will be Nov/Dec. Please update Bob with membership news. Be sure to check out the last page which informs us of discount offers, and has advertising that brings in \$100 to BHTA.

The Payroll department is trying to correct errors for about 15 members who were paid improperly. Also, some summer stipends still have not been paid. Those affected should contact Rosa Toledo at DO and keep David Bruskevicz apprised. David said that the DO will switch to a new program in January which should make our payroll stubs more readable and clear.

Please consult the email list from Dick Lasselle at DO and the phone list from David: both give pertinent contact information for DO personnel. Latricia Mack is filling-in for Kate Robbins, who is on medical leave.

Members should be reminded to sign their OMNI forms, else 403b payments will not be made on their behalf. The list of approved TSA providers has now increased to 15, including some less-expensive options like Vanguard. Lasselle's email mentions website for our reference: www.OMNI403b.com Go to Byram Hills link, and it shows all the approved options.

David Bruskewicz will ask the librarians about burning a CD of BOE meetings from CTV20. Then, Council members will be asked to view and report back.

The NYSUT course began on Thursday and is going well: 4 NYSUT courses are now pre-approved for graduate credit to the faculty. Mona Goodman asked about on-line courses: NYIT has on-line courses offered through various teachers centers, such as BEPT at Pelham High School.

Each building VP received notice of a NYSUT courses in teacher certification. Please post this notice prominently. Remind all teachers to attend to their certification status. Provisional certification is not enough to keep a faculty position, and "provisional" does not automatically become "permanent" without filing. NCLB legislation requires that 90% of the staff must be "highly qualified" or the district is placed on a public list. When teachers teach out of their certification area, they are not "highly qualified" but that makes up the allowable 10%. All others must be certified.

Each school reported on their Child Abuse meetings. Immunity and indemnity is offered to teachers who follow the protocol drawn up by the District. The building principal is the primary reporter, but a teacher may report themselves. Diane Glim advised that we are mandated reporters, so we need to respond to any community reports made to us.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:21.

Respectfully submitted, Loretta Bastone