

Byram Hills Teachers Association
Meeting of Executive Council
November 14, 2006

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, T Slosek, J Rowell, S Davies, M Goodman. Excused: K Russell.

The meeting came to order at 3:56.
Agenda of November 14 was approved.

Minutes of October 10 were read and approved.

Treasurer's report for September and October was explained by Michele Delamonico. There are 3 outstanding checks from May, 06 which reflect a gift to a retiree and donations to relief agencies. We deposited a IRS refund check for over \$300. The report was accepted.

VP Jane Black reported that Vote COPE contributions amounted to \$5322, behind last year's amount. She suggested that each building VP approach members individually and stress to them that Vote COPE works hard to lobby for Retirement System benefits for us all.

Pres David Bruskewicz reported that the October 24th phone bank was successful, and thanked all those in attendance. David asked for volunteers to attend the Committee of 100 meeting with Albany legislators on March 19,20. Diane Glim and Jane Black indicated their interest in attending. Education, health care and retirement issues will be addressed at this meeting.

VP Bob DiMartino reported that the BHTA website has been updated. Joanna Nash helped Bob with the complicated file protocols (FTP). As a result, the site can now display the minutes for the membership to view. Bob has updated the references to NYSUT and on-line courses. The next newsletter must be published before the December break, so please refer any building news to Bob ASAP.

David reported that the NYSUT course on Brain-Compatible Learning ended with great feedback from the faculty. This spring or summer, we are considering running a NYSUT in-service course in classroom management. To find on-line courses, he suggested: WCC Online, Arizona State University, Ohio Wesleyan, Mercy College and LIU.

Jane Black reported that a retirement letter is being drafted that meets notification requirements for Group 1 teachers, as per the contract. That letter is not yet ready.

David reported that the President's Council of area union presidents plans to address the legal ramifications of the Child Abuse Policy for member districts, as to teacher reporting of incidents. A NYSUT lawyer is attending the Council meeting and will advise us. Diane Glim

reported that CPS has changed its policies recently in answer to an influx of reports due to heightened concern and awareness.

David re-iterated the importance of attendance at BOE meetings, and urges each Executive Council member to volunteer to attend one. At recent meetings of BOE, HCC was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, BHHS was named a High School of Distinction for its scholar-athletes, Byram Hills representation at the Cancer Walk was recognized, Cum Laude members of BHHS were honored, and Dr. Robert Pavlica was honored for his service upon his announced retirement.

A working copy of the academic calendar for 2007-08 was given the Council, and suggested changes were solicited. The BOE will vote to adopt the calendar and David will advise us.

David suggested that a good topic for building meetings would be the definition and proper use of sick days and personal days. Members continually question this.

Executive session followed.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:26.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Bastone
Recording Secretary