

Byram Hills Teachers Association
Meeting of Executive Council
June 10, 2008

Agenda and Minutes of April 10th were accepted.

No written treasurer report was submitted. Dues for 2008-2009 will be increased by \$35, and BHTA will cut back expenses for conferences to keep expenses down. Therefore, the AFT Quest Conference will not be funded.

President's report:

D. Bruskwicz asked for updated faculty news for the final BHTA Newsletter.

We acknowledged with thanks and best wishes those on the Council who retired or left the Council.

BHTA's phone service currently includes a land line at BHHS for \$80 monthly and two cell phones. Since BHTA president Ancona is at HCC, it was proposed that we migrate the BHTA number to one of the cell phones and drop the land line. We will save \$900 per year.

Ancona also proposes that cell phone service also include email. Jane motioned and AI seconded that these changes be made. All approved.

BHTA gives a \$350 gift to each member retiree. David Bruskwicz proposed that we give a modest gift to John Chambers. He suggested an engraved Red Sox bat. Ancona motioned to approve purchase, Judy seconded. Motioned carried.

A NYSUT course will be given at Byram Hills this fall: Jim Desimone will teach a course on "Differentiated Instruction" for 3 in-service credits.

Superintendents Chambers, Taylor and Donohue met with Bruskwicz, Black and Ancona two weeks ago. They will meet next on Friday, June 13th to discuss FMLA. Harry Wilson and Jeff Kehl will also attend this meeting. Another meeting is scheduled for June 18th to discuss all outstanding issues.

BHHS AP Vinnie Vecchiariello's resignation was accepted by the BOE on Tuesday. His position may be filled by Jen Lamia, opening up a position for ELA coordinator. A guidance director has been selected.

Several departments may be without chairs; leadership will be through faculty coordinators or acting administrators. Coordinators are offered a stipend of \$2500 and, in some cases, release time. BHTA questions whether coordinators will field calls from parents, as a chair would. Coordinators need to be counseled on how to handle sensitive phone calls regarding other members. BHTA members also suggest using consultants to advise departments in need of leadership. M. Hubertus asked if release time might be extended to BHTA president to acknowledge all the time spent assisting the District.

Jane Black reported that she set the Group 1 letter to 40 eligible members. To date, 10 have exercised their option to commit to retirement by 2012. There are 20 days left to submit this irrevocable letter.

Jane has also distributed Vote COPE materials to each building VP. She suggests that members enroll now for payroll deduction next fall to cover their contribution. One of the many reasons to contribute is the recent attack on teacher tenure which was fought off by Vote COPE.

Reminder: There are two summer conferences: AFT and NYSUT Summer Leadership

Executive session followed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Bastone