

Central Islip Teachers Association Executive Board Minutes 8/27/08

Officers:

President: Robert Molinaro*
Vice-President: Barbara Leshinger*
Secretary: Sandra Mercurio*
Treasurer: Lou Celenza*

Committee Chairs:

Community Liaison: Jennifer Cicero*
Health and Welfare: Judy Paradine, Tom Kuhn*
Member Services: Tara Maguire*
Negotiations: Michael Romano*
Political Action: Vincent Ruggiero
Professional Rights and Responsibilities: Walter Eberhard*, Georgette Moliterno*
Public Relations: Tammy Walsh
Teacher Education and Professional Standards: Susan Lane*

Committee Members /Guests:

Member Service: Wendy Kaplan*
Negotiations: Michelle Celenza*
PR&R: Barry Machin*
TEPS: Susan Schwartz*
CISTA: Diane Galazka, Pres.*
Lori Stolworthy, V. Pres.*
Key: *=present

Building Representatives:

ECC: Fran Owen*
Josette Crean*

Cordello: Vicky Mejia*

Morrow: Allison Cummings*
Allison Harris*
Pat Zablocki*

Mulligan: Barbara Mallonee
Marlene L'Hommedieu*
Cindy Nadler*

Mulvey: Stephanie Roes*
Susan Schwartz*

O'Neill: Jill Bothwell*
Audrey Sanchez*

Reed: Steven Bloom*
Lori Gately*
Wendy Kaplan
Barry Machin
Larry Rosenstone

High School: Nicole Fazio*
Jason Fielding*
Andrew McCaslin*
Sandy Morrow*
Lori Rossi*
Kevin Spicer*

President Robert Molinaro called the August 27, 2008 Executive Board meeting of the CITA to order at 2:03 p.m. A motion was made by Steve Bloom, and seconded by Tom Kuhn, to accept the minutes from the June 11, 2008 Executive Board meeting.

President's Report: Rob distributed contact information for himself and Barbara.

Rob reminded everyone that building representatives take notes, not minutes during the executive board meeting. Official minutes are recorded by Sandy and approved by the board two weeks after initial executive board meeting. We will be posting them on the website in the near future. Notes are for time sensitive information that is critical for your building.

There was a Tax Cap proposal in the Senate that passed 28 to 20. When it was presented to the Assembly, it was defeated 118 votes to 24 votes. The Tax Cap would limit the school districts budget. NYSUT did a study and 9 million dollars would have been cut from our budget. What was put in place was a Circuit Breaker. It is tax relief for the lower income residents and the burden will shift to the wealthy. It is being looked at in the Assembly. NYSUT has been flexing their muscle.

Phil Ramos is in a primary battle in the 6th assembly district. He has been a vocal and supportive advocate for our district and our children. Last week we had a rally in support of him with the Brentwood Teachers Association and Bayshore Teachers Association. We met in front of the Alfano Building and had members pose for a press release.

We have a new superintendent. He was a Superintendent in Roxbury School District. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Superintendent in the Deer Park School District. Rob expressed the need to include the CITA in decision-making.

There was an AFT Convention in which Randi Weingarten, who was the UFT President, became the AFT President. She succeeds a long line of New York City leaders who became President of AFT (Al Shanker and Sandy Feldman). Randi was Sandy's lawyer. The AFT endorsed Senator Obama. There is no comparison. McCain endorses charter schools. Hillary gave a rousing speech. Dick Iannuzzi, Maria Neira, and Alan Lubin are in Denver right now at the Democratic Convention.

Rob has told the new Superintendent that there will be no after school meetings. Rob expressed how the members couldn't be overburdened. If there is a mandated meeting, we do not have to meet after school. We care about the children and the district. We have to be part of the process, but we do not have to be part of the process at night. Last year, as a sign of good faith, there was a one-time occurrence of meetings after school. We need to be resolute about the decision not to have these meetings after school. Administrators need to make the scope smaller and more productive. The right thing is respecting our time and us with our families in and out of the classroom.

We need to reduce to writing how administration schedules professional development a week before the state assessments.

Rob would like to recognize John Corcione and Stephanie Roes for serving on committees. Stacey Human will replace Stephanie Roes on the Public Relations Committee. Wendy Kaplan joined Member Services Committee and Regina Gaudioso joined the TEPS Committee. A motion was made by Tom Kuhn to accept committee appointments and was seconded by Mike Romano. Motion carried.

Rob also asked Tara Maguire to fill in as Chairperson for Member Services Committee while Cheryl Orlando is on maternity leave. A motion was made by Mike Romano and seconded by Sandy Mercurio to accept Tara Maguire's appointment. Motion carried.

Anne Genovese was the liaison to the Islip Teachers Center. Anne retired last year and Rob appointed Sue Lane. A motion to accept Sue's appointment was made by Michael Romano and seconded by Steve Bloom. Motion carried.

Rob welcomed the new building representatives.

Vice-President's Report: Please make sure you forward Barbara your buildings master schedule. Make sure everyone is on the schedule and it is equitable. Barbara also needs a copy of your updated handbook. Check it over with your building committee.

We have 25 new teachers. We still have a few more new hires. There are 8 in the Alternative program alone. There are two new Reading Coaches at the Mulligan School. No one was excessed.

Treasurer's Report: Lou presented the 2008-2009 Budget.

We need to vote to absorb the dues increase from NYSUT and AFT and take a decrease in dues coming to the CITA. A motion was made to accept the change in dues by Mike Romano and seconded by Fran Owen. Motion carried. Motion to adopt the budget and present to the general membership at our September 10th meeting was made by Steve Bloom and seconded by Barbara Leshinger.

Committee Reports:

TEPS: We had our new membership orientation this morning. We welcomed them. Facilitators will be meeting soon before our parent teacher conferences.

Teacher Center course books should be in your mailboxes by tomorrow. Registration for courses will be on September 8th at 5PM. It will be done by lottery. Suzy sent out a flyer in reference to course credits from The Teacher Center. A course or two were late and completion notices will be given out before the September 15th deadline for salary increment.

Public Relations: No Report

Professional Rights and Responsibilities Committee: We have ten to twelve grievances to file. There were issues with evaluations from last year. There were no supplies in Mulvey. Again, there are supply issues. Make sure your computers are up and running. An official form with back up paper work needs to be handed in to Georgette and Walter.

Political Action Committee: Please make sure to vote if you are in the sixth district. We are supporting Phil Ramos. The primary election is Tuesday, September 10, 2008.

Negotiations: There should be a flyer or posting for coverage.

Home teaching needs to be established in each building.

Clubs need to be taken Posting is for a minimum of 5 full days. It is posted a second time, if no one applies. Then anyone in the building can apply, after the second unsuccessful posting. It goes by strict seniority.

Appendix B (clubs) needs to be filled by personnel in the building.

Member Services: Breast Cancer walk is Sunday, October 19, at 8Am at Jones Beach. Donations are due by October 16th. T-Shirt orders are due September 10th. There are flyers being distributed.

Fall Driver Education Course will be held October 21st and 23rd from 4-7 PM. You must attend both sessions to receive credit.

Health and Welfare: When you go back to your building and there are any health issues or concerns, please get in contact with Judy as soon as you can at Morrow.

Community Liaison: No Report.

Buildings:

Cordello-A new program was installed and any work that was saved on your computer was lost. Anything that was saved on the district server was intact. There was no memo indicating there was going to be done.

ECC- we have 24 students in a class. The Smart Boards were not delivered and there is no training. Talk to the parents and the PTA.

High School- No schedule.

Morrow-Physical Education teacher is not on the bus schedule. Barbara asked that the building reps wait two weeks until his position is ascertained.

Mulligan- AIS Math has not had training. Put everything in writing.

Mulvey- Letter from principal indicating that the AIS delivery of services is changed. The educational evaluator/resource teacher will be sharing a room with a band teacher.

O'Neill-Center of Hope will be back in the building at 3:00 when school lets out at 3:30. The state certification states that bilingual certification is an extension of your certification.

Reed-The principal said that school is off the list of school in need of improvement. Also that ESL has made safe harbor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Kuhn and seconded by Lou Celenza at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Mercurio, Secretary

