

**PDTA Representative Assembly Meeting
February 12, 2007
Minutes**

Present: P. Abkowitz, C. Bader, M. Brown, B. Burrows, B. Canfield, D. Cerbone, L. Chaput, J. Drake, G. Drooz, B. Gibson, L. Khalil, J. Larson, M. Maland, K. Matychak, H. McAulliffe, S. McGrath, G. Mulkeen, D. Nichols, B. O'Brien, M. O'Connor, L. Riley, D. Sanfrantello, A. Shannon, B. Shapiro, K. Shield, S. Smith, N. Sorrentino, S. Stein, S. Tontarski, L. Traynor, P. VanGraafeiland

Absent: A. Balch, K. Boardman, E. Ciccone, T. Dickerson, M. Donner, J. Duntley, S. Gager, C. Glassman, G. Herman, M. Humphreys, K. Jordan, M. LoRe-Geigel, A. McCarthy, J. Menchel

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Correction to January 22, 2007 R.A. minutes: J. Larson is an Assistant Building Representative and not an SRP Representative.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** None
3. **Treasurers Report:** J. Menchel was absent. B. Shapiro gave the report. The check to B. Shapiro for \$1,495.07 reimbursed items such as: airline tickets to the RA in Washington, D.C.; dinners for the negotiating team; office supplies, etc. J. Menchel will give further explanation next month if needed. For tax purposes, 2006 dues for a full-time FTE were \$570.74.

OLD BUSINESS

4. **Cooperative Decision Making Training** is moving forward in 3 schools in March. The schools that will be trained are MCE, TRE and BRMS.
5. **Negotiations:** (P. VanGraafeiland) The team is meeting weekly. The team will meet with the district on February 28, 2007 and March 14, 2007. Everyone who submitted an issue should be receiving a letter from P. VanGraafeiland and B. Shapiro regarding the status of the issue they submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **25-Year Honorees:** Building Reps need to check to ensure all 25-year honorees are reported so they can be honored at the retirement dinner.
7. **Kindergarten Books:** PDTA purchased books for all kindergarten students two years ago. The title was The Night Before Kindergarten. This was a very successful public relations activity since the PDTA logo was placed in each book. The cost to do this again will be about \$700. P. Abkowitz made a motion and H. McAulliffe seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. **403(b) Letter from District:** The district will be using Omni as its common remitter. There is no cost to the employees and Omni does not sell retirement accounts. The district can be held liable if 403(b)s are not handled properly due to new regulations. D. Sanfratello wanted to know if there will be a delay in submitting money to the 403(b)s in the fall. B. Shapiro will ask the district Dan's question. The district is moving forward with this and are just asking for our input to help make a smoother transition. 403(b) statements will still be given out by the provider not Omni. B. Shapiro will ask John Schiess to expand the letter to give a better explanation. This issue will also be written about in *Speak Out*.

9. **Technology Issues:** K-12 Planet was piloted four years ago at the middle school. It is an on-line grading system where parents can view grades over the Internet. Jeff Cimmerer (Director of Technology), Holly Jones (Assistant Superintendent), and Mike Pero (BRMS Principal) met with B. Shapiro to discuss the next steps. B. Shapiro asked them to review the pros and cons and then use shared decision making to determine the course of action. Building level discussions should be happening. Geri Drooz stated that this is a hot topic at BRMS. There is a cost involved to the district if they implement this program. Many factors need to be considered including gathering data on how much parents actually use the program and if it provides relevant info for courses such as art, music, P.E. and technology that do not typically have weekly grades.

Each teacher is given a gigabyte of memory on the district server. Some people have exceeded this limit and they need to save their data on memory sticks. The district will assist with moving the information if needed and will contact those who are over their storage capacity.

The district is also concerned about the use of third party blogs by teachers. The district views them as a helpful instructional tool, but there are concerns since the District has no control over these sites. The District is testing some products that teachers might have more control over and make it a safer environment.

10. **Sick Leave Bank:** There has been a significant decrease in days from the 900 range to the current balance of 674.2 days in the bank. PDTA may have to replenish the days if the decrease continues. The Sick Leave Bank can be used for maternity leave and there have been a great number of births. H. McAulliffe asked if he could contribute excess days he has since he is retiring. B. Shapiro will look into that possibility.

11. **Leading the Learning:** This summer workshop will be held August 15 –17. All administrators and some PDTA reps will attend. The same people who attended last year will again attend this year: B. Shapiro, L. Chaput, E. Ciccone, P. VanGraafeiland, A. Balch, J. Barker, and possibly a replacement for C. Goldsmith who is retiring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

12. **Professional Growth:** D. Nichols reported that ILC is training with Brenda Kaylor on the induction of new teachers. R. Hollis is retiring and the district will need to hire a new Teacher Center Director. PDTA study grant funds are still available.

SPECIAL REPORTS

13. **President's Report:**

- Seniority reports are out. Principals of each building have them. This may be the most accurate list there has ever been for the professional staff.
- Standards Leaders openings will rotate so that all the positions are not up at the same time. A few leaders are retiring and some are not coming back to the position. PDTA selects the department members to serve on the interview committee. Carol Goldsmith selects the Standards Leaders who serve.
- Governor's budget should increase state aid by 3%. Gov. Spitzer's proposed budget includes the greatest increases in funds for education since Gov. Rockefeller.

14. **VP of Administration Report:** Budget review starts today (February 12, 2007) at the BOE meeting. Plenty of money is available in the Student Benefit Fund. The school calendar for 07-08 should be approved at the BOE meeting.

15. **Delegate Report:** The delegates will discuss the cost of SRP dues at the RA in Washington, D.C. Hopefully the SRPs will pay lower dues next year. There are a number of important resolutions this year related to NCLB, inclusion of Special Education students and teacher accountability.

16. **Grievance:** No report

17. **Retiree:** No report

Adjourned at 4:54 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Len Chaput
Vice President for Administration