

**PDTA Representative Assembly Meeting
February 13, 2006
Minutes**

Present: P. Abkowitz, C. Bader, A. Balch, S. Bertrand, M. Biondi, M. Brown, B. Burrows, B. Canfield, D. Cerbone, L. Chaput, E. Ciccone, J. DiBrango, J. Drake, G. Drooz, J. Duntley, L. Ehrlich, B. Gibson, B. Girouard, M. Hart, A. Johnson-Credit, S. Johnston, L. Khalil, M. LoRe-Geigel, M. Maland, H. McAulliffe, A. McCarthy, J. Menchel, G. Mulkeen, D. Nichols, B. O'Brien, C. Sackett, D. Sanfratello, A. Shannon, B. Shapiro, K. Shield, N. Sorrentino, S. Stein, S. Tontarski, L. Traynor, P. VanGraafeiland
Absent: K. Boardman, B. Collins, K. Dolan, M. Donner, S. Gager, C. Glassman, D. John, D. Krenzer

1. **Approval of Minutes:** R.A. minutes from January 23, 2006 meeting were approved.
2. **Additions to the Agenda:** Transfers and Postings
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Distributed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

4. **PDTA Survey:** L. Chaput distributed the final report of Ad Hoc Committee survey results. It should have included the data base of volunteers. It does not need to be distributed to all members, but copies can be made.

NEW BUSINESS

5. **Screen dusters to advertise PDTA website:** The PDTA website is revamped. A proposal was brought up to purchase and distribute screen dusters with the PDTA logo and website address. The cost is .85 each, total cost approximately \$1,000. R.A. voted and approved the purchase.
6. **Transfers/Postings:** Members want data around this. People are getting different answers to questions regarding traveling positions and questions surrounding tenure. Please advise members to contact their Building Rep, B. Shapiro or B. Gibson.
7. **Duty of fair representation:** Representatives need to be careful that they are aware of their duty to represent members. When a concern is brought to the attention of a PDTA leader, it should be handled through the Building Rep. The Building Rep should always make B. Shapiro aware of what is going on. Also, when B. Shapiro is made aware of an issue, she will inform the Building Rep immediately, unless there are legal issues that prevent her from sharing or if the member has asked her not to share that information with others. Remember, duty of fair representation is a legal matter and if the union does not fairly represent its members, then the union could be faced with a lawsuit.
8. **Proposed new secondary schedule:** Kathy Curtis, committee chairperson, gave an overview of the work done by the committee to date. She gave a brief history. We have been looking at this issue since 2001. The committee is looking at a rotating

schedule with 50-minute periods. The proposed change was teacher initiated. It now has the support of Administration. The Superintendent is also excited about the idea.

K. Curtis described some of the positives of a new schedule:

- More instructional time
- Less conflict between after school labs and extra-curricular activities
- Varying times for classes (not always same class—M-F 1st period, etc.)
- All students get a scheduled lunch
- More course selection options
- All students would be available after school since all classes/labs are scheduled into the school day
- Daily load decrease for both teachers and students

The goals of a new schedule:

- Provide longer periods
- Schedule all classes in the school day
- Maximize time and space

Issues:

- Traveling teachers
- Bussing
- Lunch
- Homeroom

Concerns/questions/comments brought up by PDTA:

- Will parents have input? Parents sit on ILC and building ILTs
- Invest resources in professional development (district)
- Student assistance time?
- Is 10th period (2:21-3:05) gone?
- Time period for lunch...30 or 40 or 50 minutes? (contractual issue)
- Day will be longer for teaching (contractual issue)
- Need to keep elementary personnel in the loop
- We will negotiate next year...we can deal with time issues at the negotiations
- Shorter lunch periods would be a contractual issue
- ILC, PDTA, and Administrators have heard presentation. BOE will need to hear this presentation.
- The contract has no language regarding starting or ending times, but we do have past practice and would have to negotiate the increase in time (possibly an additional 22 minutes).
- Bussing will be a big issue.
- Counselors have said that this new schedule would help students manage time and homework better.
- Re block scheduling...K. Curtis believes that the district would NOT entertain the idea of moving to block scheduling (long periods, like 80 or 90 minutes).
- If we have to add full-day kindergarten someday, it may have an impact on bussing, scheduling too.
- Traveling teachers, PDTA president, and Standards leaders will need option of a more set schedule (rather than rotating).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations: PDTA offers scholarships to seniors interested in going into the field of education. Teachers should encourage seniors to apply!

Also, donations to the Pittsford Food Cupboard have been low lately. Building Reps should make an extra appeal for donations.

Communications: Companies want to advertise in our bulletin, *Speak Out!* After some discussion, PDTA agreed to charge \$400 for full page, \$200 for ½ page and \$100 for ¼ page.

SPECIAL REPORTS

President's Report:

- a. Regarding the old harassment lawsuit against the district...B. Shapiro distributed to Building Reps a revised letter for members who have questions about being contacted by a lawyer.
- b. The MS Transfer process went extremely well. No real issues came up.
- c. The annual Legislative Breakfast is coming up March 4. B. Shapiro strongly encourages members to attend. Remember, the governor's proposed budget this year is very negative to education. So, we need to work with Albany to get changes to that proposed budget!
- d. Any corrections to the Seniority List should be sent to B. Shapiro.
- e. Building Reps should check with staff to see if anyone is missing from the 25-Year Club (honorees for our retirement party).
- f. NYSUT offices offer some classes for members, like personal finance.
- g. The Fairport Education Association has asked PDTA members who are Fairport residents to vote Yes on Renovation plan in that district! *Note: unfortunately the bond issue vote failed on February 14.*

V-P Report:

The BOE will begin working on the budget at the February 13 meeting.

DPT created a charter and will be asking other leadership groups to do the same.

There is information about the Student Benefit Fund in the current issue of *Speak Out!*

Grievance: PDTA has a meeting on March 2 with the Superintendent regarding the issue about dropping insurance coverage for employees who have run out of paid sick time.

The R.A. suggested that B. Gibson include in her column in *Speak Out!* an explanation of what exactly is a grievance (definition).

Building Reports: Building Reps should forward reports to B. Burrows.

Retirees: Their next newsletter will be out in March.

The Retirees will have an active link to their website on PDTA's website.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Balch
PDTA Secretary