

PDTA Representative Assembly Meeting
March 10, 2008
Minutes

Present: C. Bader, A. Balch, M. Brown, S. Burdett, B. Burrows, C. Burton, B. Canfield, D. Cerbone, L. Chaput, J. DiBrango, M. Donner, J. Drake, G. Drooz, S. Gager, C. Gunter, M. Hamblin, M. Humphreys, K. Jewett, S. Kaier-Tuttle, L. Khalil, E. Khuns, J. Larson, P. LeVan, M. LoRe-Geigel, M. Maland, S. McGrath, E. McRae, J. Menchel, G. Mulkeen, D. Nichols, B. O'Brien, M. O'Connor, L. Riley, D. Sanfratello, B. Shapiro, A. Shelp, L. Shemancik, K. Shield, S. Smith, N. Sorrentino, S. Stein, S. Tontarski, P. VanGraafeiland

Absent: T. Dickerson, C. Glassman, K. Matychak

1. **Minutes:** Minutes were approved for the March 3, 2008 PDTA Executive Committee meeting.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Financial reports for February and March were distributed. J. Menchel also explained the tax form 1099 that is required for those who received stipends of over \$600.00 from PDTA. Treasurer's report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

3. **Long Term Disability and Life Insurance:** B. Shapiro thanked the committee (J. Menchel, L. Chaput, K. Shield and D. Cerbone) that worked on this. The district has moved to a new provider. The rates for long term disability insurance are increasing, beginning with the March 14 paycheck. PDTA is working to get the new provider to have an open enrollment period. There is no new paperwork needed for this changeover. There is no rate increase for the life insurance.
4. **2008-09 School Calendar** was approved by the BOE and was distributed to staff.
5. **Labor Religion Coalition** will be moved to the April agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **Induction:** A. Balch and D. Nichols presented an update on work and research being done with our Induction program. They identified a gap in our current mentoring program. They then gave an overview of an exemplary Induction program: the New Teacher Center of Santa Cruz, California. When asked for input, PDTA brought up the following:
 - Would all of this count in the 12 hours of PD required by the contract? including job-embedded meeting times with mentors?
 - We need an appropriate ratio mentor-new staff member for this to work.
 - This proposal would mean fewer opportunities for teacher leaders/experts to share their expertise.

- Is there a plan for induction for school-related personnel (SRP)?
 - What is the real impact on the mentee? Sounds like a very big time commitment for the mentee. The mentor would be full-release and want to meet often with new staff, but the new staff will have a full load of classes.
 - **Note about current Induction Institute:** A good topic for new staff might be an explanation of the many ways that SRPs can be of assistance to staff.
7. **2008-09 School Budget:** As noted in communications from the Superintendent, the problem is on the revenue side. We aren't spending that much more; we are getting much less because of the F.A.I.R. plan and a reduction of what was promised from the Governor. The BOE asked DPT to come up with two scenarios: one budget at contingency level and one at contingency, minus ½%. Mary Alice Price made the decision on what to cut to get to the dollar amount that the BOE would feel comfortable with sending to the community for approval. In previous years, the Budget Review Committee, with teacher reps, decided on where to cut. This year, the Superintendent made those decisions. These two plans were to be presented to the BOE on March 10. Not all is "set in stone". There may be some changes before April 18, when the BOE plans to have a final budget proposal for the vote on May 20.
8. **DPT Ad Hoc YK- 5 Committee** will deal with the huge issue of elementary school organization across the district. PDTA members that will serve on this very important group: Maureen Norton (AC), Becky Girouard (JR), Lori Lefkowitz (MC), Spencer Jones (PR) and Jackie Wachob (TR).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9. **Professional Growth:** No study grant applications have yet been received! The deadline to apply is April 15.
10. **Public Relations:** PDTA Scholarship (\$750.00) information was sent out to each high school. The deadline for seniors to apply is April 28. Staff should encourage any senior planning to go into an education field to apply. Also, if you are asked to write a letter of recommendation for an applicant, please be sure to meet the deadline.
11. **Political Action:** VOTE-COPE campaign is from March 12 to March 20. Help the VOTE-COPE leader in your building by encouraging members to participate! Remember, 40 percent of all contributions return to PDTA for our own needs!!

SPECIAL REPORTS

12. **President:** Retirees have been announced and B. Shapiro will see if they plan to attend the retirement dinner in May. Also, we are getting a list of 25-year honorees. B. Shapiro will check with Building Reps to make sure we don't forget anyone.

- 13. V-P for Administration:** L. Chaput will take notes at tonight's BOE meeting.
- 14. V-P for Negotiations:** The 504 Committee will meet again on March 27. The 504 Committee meeting was postponed. The Special Needs Advisory Committee will meet March 11. The Special Needs Advisory Committee's work will affect many staff members.
- 15. Grievance:** S. Gager is working on the problem concerning the fact that staff who are on leave on October 1 are not allowed to receive the Health Fund money. Currently we know of five people who had this happen to them this year.
- 16. Retirees:** N. Sorrentino distributed the newest edition of *Retired Times*. The final amount that retirees contributed in their VOTE-COPE drive was \$2,725.00, an increase of over \$700.00 over last year. The first program of the newly created Retirees' Activities Committee will be held this month.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Balch
PDTA Secretary