

PDTA Representative Assembly Meeting
March 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, M. Donner, J. Drake, G. Drooz, J. Duntley, L. Ehrlich, S. Gager, B. Gibson, B. Girouard, , D. John, A. Johnson-Credit, L. Khalil, D. Krenzer, M. LoRe-Geigel, M. Maland, A. McCarthy, G. Mulkeen, D. Nichols, B. O'Brien, C. Sackett, A. Shannon, B. Shapiro, K. Shield, N. Sorrentino, S. Stein, S. Tontarski, P. VanGraafeiland

Absent: K. Boardman, B. Collins, K. Dolan, C. Glassman, M. Hart, S. Johnston, H. McAulliffe, J. Menchel, D. Sanfratello, L. Traynor

1. Approval of Minutes

Representative Assembly Meeting, February 13, 2006- approved
Executive Committee Meeting, March 6, 2006- approved with 1 attendance correction

2. Treasurer's Report- distributed and approved

3. Guest Jeff Cimmerer: Asked for input regarding concerns about having classes recorded for video streamed to a student's home for students who are out for a long period of time. There would still be a tutor hired to help the student. Some of the concerns brought up today:

- Illegal copying and sending of feed to other places
- Privacy rights for other students in the class (legal issues?)
- Student may have lots of questions that tutor can't answer
- Student interaction recorded? That is where a lot of learning takes place.
- There are some pre-packaged courses. Have they looked at that as a possibility?
- Used as an evaluation piece?
- What if parent complains about what they see?
- What about when a video is shown? Legalities regarding recording of movies?

J. Cimmerer took note of those concerns. He also asked that you e-mail him with any other concerns. He will come back to PDTA RA meeting at a future date to discuss this more.

4. Guest Darrin Kenney: B. Shapiro introduced the new Asst. Superintendent for Business. He mentioned that the budget seems to be "better than last year" (approx. 8.6% spending increase, which includes construction and new school startup costs). He mentioned that at this point, no staff reductions have been requested. He mentioned that his most visible connection to each building is through the principals, mostly regarding facilities.

5. Health Fund/Flexible Spending: The district will officially change our Health Fund/FSA administrator beginning July 1, 2006. This was done after a committee, including PDTA members, looked to change providers in order to get better service.

Because of the change, everyone will have to do some paperwork this Spring. P. VanGraafeiland will be meeting with J. Schiess to plan the transfer. This will include orientation meetings in each building.

6. School Budget: (also see #4 above) The preliminary numbers that the district is working with are not exact, as the high school staffing is still not finalized. Governor Pataki's proposed State Budget includes several items that are harmful to the district. There is a proposal to give an incentive to keep school budget increase below 4%. The Governor also proposed only one vote. If it's voted down, then contingency budget. All the more reason why our VOTE/COPE donations are hard at work!

7. WNY Council on Occupational Safety and Health: We have been invited to join this council. They offer training on Worker's Compensation and other issues regarding Health & Safety. R.A. voted to join for one year (\$100) and decide next year if we wish to continue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Political Action: P. Abkowitz reported that the VOTE/COPE Drive is underway. P. Abkowitz encouraged all members of the RA to donate or increase their donations. This money helps the union fight Albany cuts to education!!

9. Professional Growth: D. Nichols reported that the Study Grant application deadline is **April 15, 2006**. This deadline is firm. She encouraged members to apply.

SPECIAL REPORTS

10. Grievance: PDTA submitted a class-action grievance for all members regarding health insurance for members who have been out for an extended period of time and have exhausted all paid time. This grievance went to the Superintendent level and she called for a hearing. At the hearing the Superintendent asked J. Schiess and PDTA to do a "mini-negotiations" to resolve this issue. P. VanGraafeiland will meet with J. Schiess on March 15.

11. Retirees: N. Sorrentino reported that the PDRTA is now a link on the PDTA website. She also distributed the latest edition of "*Retired Times*". She asked Building Representatives to post it in the Faculty Room rather than the main office, because this issue contains retirees' e-mail addresses.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew S. Balch
PDTA Secretary