

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – April 4, 2012
CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Francesca Ciolino-Vilano, Ken Forman, Gene Goldwasser, Pat Galaskas, Elliott Kigner, Mel Lantz, Corine Lipset-Huberman, David Long, Stewart Mortman, Stan Opas, John Wallace

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President.

We began with introductions and welcome to new members. Gene reviewed the agenda.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the December 21, 2011 meeting were accepted.
Moved by Stu Mortman, seconded by David Long.

3.0 Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of Jack Zamek, Gene reported that dues in the amount of \$4,520 had been deposited and we currently have a balance in all accounts of approximately \$15,000.

4.0 Announcements: none

5.0 Correspondence: Membership renewal letters went out. One return was accompanied by a question about medical coverage.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Benefits – No report.

6.2 Legislation – Stu Mortman noted that we are moving into campaign season. The AFT has endorsed Obama for 2012. The opponents' priorities as publicized during the campaigns leading up to the nomination are a real source of concern (right to work laws, attacks on the health care program, proposals for changes in social security and medicare, etc.). Even if we're not in agreement with all of Obama's actions, he still appears to be the best alternative. Stu stressed the recurring attacks on public employee's pensions. Only one year after Tier V was enacted, the NYS legislature backed Gov. Cuomo and created Tier VI. Although NYSUT's lobbying was able to achieve some modifications with respect to 401K type retirement accounts, the new tier further reduces benefits for new entrants to the profession. The danger of a Constitutional Convention remains with its potential for changes to the wording that protects our existing pension

benefits. Visits to legislatures, both in Albany and at local offices, were suggested. At a previous meeting the need to get information and calls for political action to members in a timely fashion was discussed. It was agreed that a database and list serve which would permit rapid transmission of legislative alerts would be helpful. Gene announced the creation of the following e-mail address to permit members to connect with us: NYSRASAS@optonline.net.

6.3 Membership: We currently mail newsletters to 482 people. Of these, 278 have paid dues for 2012. There are 26 paid lifetime members and 28 new members who do not pay dues for their first year. In all, there are 353 paid members and 113 who have not yet sent checks even after a “reminder” (second) mailing.

6.4 Newsletter: The April issue was mailed from the printer on April 4. It includes articles by Marvin Kreutzberger, Joe Marchese, Stu Mortman, Harold Pierson, and Corine Lipset-Huberman as well as Directory updates. June 15 will be the deadline for articles to be included in the July issue. Corine Lipset-Huberman has volunteered to assist as editor. John Wallace, Stu Mortman and Ken Forman will e-mail articles to Corine. The Association will reimburse the cost of appropriate software (Microsoft Office and Publisher) for Corine (motion made by Pat Galaskas, seconded by David Long and passed unanimously).

6.5 Publicity. Stan Opas will be taking photos of Executive Board members and establishing a photo bank for future use. More pictures will be taken at our June luncheon.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Directory: Pat was thanked for her work in putting together the Directory.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Luncheon: June 20 is the scheduled date. The Executive Board will meet at 10:00 a.m. and the luncheon will be scheduled for 12 noon. The Holiday Inn at Exit 46 on the LIE and the Hilton in Melville were suggested as possible locations. Gene will explore both. It was agreed that we will charge members \$21 and subsidize the actual cost with \$5-6 from our treasury. There will be no charge for new members. It was suggested that each Executive Board members bring a guest. Several suggestions for speakers and topics were mentioned. Joe Quinn will be asked for assistance. John Wallace and Pat Galaskas also volunteered to make some contacts.

8.2 Golf Outing: Tabled.

9.0 Issues for Discussion

9.1 Common Core Standards: It was suggested that Victor Jacarino be asked for a piece on the Common Core Standards for a future newsletter. For more information on the topic, members can consult the NYS SED website, click on “Common Core State Standards” and “EngageNY.”

9.2 Annual Professional Performance Review: The NYS SED website also has information on this topic. The problems involved with “teaching to the test” and the time the actual administration of tests takes away from time for instruction in greater depth were discussed. Initiatives that will lead to the elimination of self-contained special ed classes and that require ESL students to take ELA and math tests after only one year in the system are concerns. “Growth” measures for APPR calculations don’t account for students who “ceiling” on tests (so the test has never really measured what they can do and we don’t know what will constitute “growth”). Also, the impact of transient students on teachers’ evaluations is problematic.

10.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. before the annual luncheon.

11.0 Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. (moved by David Long, seconded by Corine Lipset-Huberman, passed unanimously).

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas