



West Genesee Teachers' Association

PO Box 417
Camillus, NY 13031

Cabinet Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Called to Order: 4:01

Roll Call:

<u>Executive Officers</u> John Mannion Mary Weaver Keith Newvine Sue Marshall Jeanine Stables	<u>East Hill</u> Heather Tome Janet McDonald	<u>Split Rock</u> John Lawrence Wende Ogden	<u>WGMS</u> Matt Bolha Donna Geer
	<u>Onondaga Road</u> Kathy Gauthier	<u>Stonehedge</u> Allyson Winters Courtney Lyons Terry Lindsey	
<u>CMS</u> Eric Howes Dale Keida	<u>High School</u> Patrick Haines Patti Sullivan Molly Devaney		<u>Guest</u>

Secretary's Report (Jeanine Stables)

- December minutes shared and discussed.
- Motion to accept minutes as written: Wende Ogden
- Seconded: Kathy Gauthier

Treasurer's Report (Sue Marshall)

- We need an internal audit committee. We need to have one to be compliant with NYSUT, and since we will need to pay auditors every time, which is costly. - Two or three people should be sufficient, if we could have volunteers...
- Monthly report – stipends are biggest expense, with extra week of payroll deductions. We are up to date on dues.
- w-2s for cabinet members were distributed
- 403B article written in the memberships- members are encouraged to read it
- Report accepted as presented

President's Report (John Mannion)

- NYSTRS information- Dee Moore went to conference and submitted a summary. Her term has ended, and she is resigning. Summary: The defined benefit plan should be continued, versus going to a 401K. It is important to note that when the State

Constitutional convention occurs in 2017, it is believed that Politicians are going to try to amend the constitutional obligation to provide pensions.

- Technology- We have only purchased a copier. Staff is using district computers to conduct WGTA business. Proposal: that we purchase laptops for use by executive staff. Would like cabinet to consider a motion to allot \$1500 at next cabinet meeting.
- NYSED: Letter from Cuomo to Tisch—see newsletter article.

John also suggests:

1. follow him on twitter, and visit the WGTA website for ways to stay informed and participate.
 2. Global education Reform Movement- GERM.
 3. #onevoice- a group of organizations and individuals standing up against privatization.
 4. Diane Ravtich.
 5. Phil Cleary's email blasts.
- Tenure Ambassador-NYSUT is looking for people to become Tenure ambassador to help communicate/strengthen understanding of its importance.
 - EDC: Matt Sweeney presented a new program that he has been trying that he seems to like, at the middle school level. Some issues- the program has to go thru EDC. We need to discuss, especially with the possibility its moving to sixth grade level. – how does that affect certification areas?
 - Discussion regarding the need to reinforce the hierarchic protocol for committee- what topics are appropriate, what committee first, etc... Keith suggests meeting at new teacher orientation to explain hierarchy protocol.
 - Discussed suggesting a return to more formal procedures at district committee meetings- Roberts rules of order- so that we can document teachers are being given a voice.
 - Email from Brian about LATS....We will sign off that we know the protocol and we can't grade our own tests
 - Two sick banks requested-
 1. Stephanie Murphy.....Motion: Jamie Abdo Seconded: Alison Winters- approved. (Steph needs only a few days- to be donated by her husband so no need to appeal to the membership.)
 2. Nichole Lavea- Motion: Marybeth Smith Seconded: Keith Newvine- approved
 - Reminder that applications for teachers seeking sabbatical leave are due.
 - LAP- John has applied for a grant from NUSUT to support building our union membership and support. Stay tuned.
 - John and Keith met with Dr. Brown re: redistricting--- ran an analysis, he is not going to recommend it, but will present to board for consideration. Did address nursing/staff issues.
 - SUBs- it may be time for us to consider sub service- or consider other options as it is continually a problem in all buildings.

Vice-President's Report (Mary Weaver)

- SLC- topics... Please send agenda items to Mary for Feb 4.
- TC- Mary handed out copies of CNYOswego County Teaching Center workshops.

Vice-President for Grievances (Keith Newvine)

- None to report

Building Leader Report

EH- sped workshop- questions about how staff find out about them

OR- Report card

SR Issue with former officers/cabinet members yelling at current reps. John acknowledges it is important for all to be heard but urges members to be respectful and supportive of each other. Members discussed ways that we can reach out to improve communication with Split Rock- officers offered to go to building level meeting to address specific concerns.

STH Subs still a problem: staff expressing interest in running for WGTA cabinet position.- Any member can nominate another person for Executive office. And all members are encouraged to participate in whatever way they can.

CMS Strategic planning- teachers would like to do it anonymously out of fear of retribution.
Mid terms and grading questions- test security, scheduling of when test are given.
Concerns about changes being proposed to curriculum at middle school.

WG: No, new students are not being pushed to CMS. Questions about retention.

HS: Proctoring issues.

Motion to adjourn Jamie Abdo Seconded: Chris Paoli

Meeting Adjourned 6:10pm