



West Genesee Teachers' Association

PO Box 417
Camillus, NY 13031

Monthly Meeting of the Cabinet Wednesday Mar 19th, 2014

I. Call to Order

John Mannion called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Cabinet Members Present:

<u>Executive Officers</u> John Mannion Keith Newvine Mary Weaver Sue Marshall	<u>East Hill</u> Janet McDonald	<u>Onondaga Road</u> Jeanine Stables Kathy Gauthier	<u>Split Rock</u> Wende Ogden John Lawrence
<u>Stonehedge</u> Terry Lindsey Allyson Winters Courtney Lyons	<u>CMS</u> Kristyn Sperduti	<u>WGMS</u> Matt Bolha Carol Glor Courtney Updegraff	<u>High School</u> Chris Paoli Mark Grier Theresa Mosey
<u>Guests:</u> Ray Fuller (Historian)			

III. Minutes from the February WGTA Meeting were read, amended and accepted.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Sue Marshall reported on the current WGTA budget. \$1,000 advance payment made to Mary Weaver to defray costs already accumulated for travel and accommodations at the upcoming Representative Assembly.

V. Membership Report: Matt is still contacting individuals who he needs the membership form from.

VI. President's Report (John Mannion)

- a. Committee of 100 attendance in Albany. Lobbying with other local leaders in meetings with Senator DeFrancisco, Assemblyman Finch and a member of Bill Magnarelli's staff. Concerns included: common core, APPR, decreased funding, Gap Elimination Adjustment.
- b. Enrollment: Decreasing enrollment has led to 6 decreased teaching positions in grades K-6 for the 2014-2015 school year. The WGTA lobbied to maintain the number of sections in some buildings with decreased class size. The district would not budge. There could be further reductions at the 7 – 12 level and beyond if more funding is not provided by the state. Widening gap in enrollment between middle schools is an ongoing concern.
- c. Budget- There is currently a budget gap. The district is waiting for a final budget to pass through the Legislature, hoping that additional funding is included.
- d. Diane Ravitch Lecture at SU April 1. Let John know if anyone is interested in attending, parking passes may be available.
- e. Statewide NYSUT Election is being conducted in NYC the first weekend in April. Mary Weaver will attend as a delegate. All executive office elections are being contested with the exception of Andrew Pallotta's Executive VP seat. The WGTA has not endorsed either slate.

- f. APPR committee summary: Polling of the cabinet on leaving LAT midterm assessments as is or moving towards multiple assessments which would need to be developed. Administrators are looking for staff to set higher targets. Targets should be reasonably set, particularly when working with a small population. WGTA is still negotiating potential changes.
- g. Substitutes: The district is continuously hiring substitutes, however, there are still situations where no sub is provided for a teacher that is out. The district and WGTA have discussed possible solutions to this problem.
- h. Three openings for school board seats this Spring. John met with Shawn Mitchell briefly to discuss his position on relevant issues and purpose in running. We hope either the cabinet or officers can meet with Shawn or any other candidates in the near future. No endorsements have been made.

VII. Vice-President's Report (Mary Weaver)

- a. SLC: SLC was cancelled due to only one agenda item: lack of substitutes. Next meeting is April 16.
- b. Directing Council was conducted electronically. A second round of applicants for PLC grants went through and 7 were approved. Presentations to follow at Drumlins

VIII. Vice-President's Report (Keith Newvine)

- a. concerns already addressed previously in meeting

IX. Building Leader Reports

- a. High School
 - i. clarification on NYSUT 2012 Rubric indicators
- b. Middle Schools
 - i. concerns discussed over redistricting and a lack of movement.
 - ii. involuntary transfers at the 6th grade level. K-5 can move one grade level, K and 5th can move two. Clarification as to why sometimes interviews are necessary.
- c. Elementary Schools
 - i. Discussions on why involuntary transfers occur so early in the year. This is to allow for postings to occur and meet the provisions of the contract regarding postings.
 - ii. Enrollment decreases have caused class size and number of sections to be adjusted. The WGTA advocates for smaller classes and favorable teacher:student ratios.
 - iii. Seniority of IS staff and moves that may be made. State law dictates that new tenure areas cannot be created, therefore no IS section of the seniority list will occur.
 - iv. Chain of command when a principal is out.
 - v. STG discussed how they handle RTI.
 - vi. The WGTA continues to state that meetings should not be held during planning.
 - vii. Tier I Intervention quality training is necessary for success with students that fall under this category.

X. The Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.