

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

AGENDA
April 22, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Speaker – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer – Stacie Waddell

I. Court Case – Steps/Back Pay –

- a) Control Board seeks 30-day extension of time to file brief.
- b) City & District agree – BTF opposed.
- c) Courts almost always agree to extensions.
- d) Court will probably agree to 30 days. Regardless, we are informed the extension will not delay oral argument – probably in September.

II. Negotiations – On hold until after State budget.

III. SCHOOL CALENDAR -

- a) Superintendent and District Staff still pushing for February break vs. April.
- b) Board committees scheduled to have a presentation April 21 - - Vote probably April 28.
- c) Most on the Board appear to favor April break.
- d) District Survey – go to www.buffaloschools.org -- 1st article is about the proposed calendar. Click the article and you will see the survey.
- e) Contact Board members – rationale, see my letter to Board on our website – www.btfny.org - News/Alerts “3/12/10 School Calendar”.

IV. STATE BUDGET –

- a) BTF continues to work with NYSUT and area legislators to prevent cuts. NYS Assembly has already added \$600,000,000 to the Governor’s budget. Contact your State Senator & Assemblyman – no cuts to education. See www.btfny.org links “Federal & State & Local elected Officials”.
- b) For possible sources of revenue, see my letter to *Buffalo News* at www.btfny.org in News/Alerts, “Phil Answers Editorial”.
- c) Additional source of revenue – An assessment on banks that have made billions more than in their history, who we bailed out, and who caused most of the problems we face.
- d) BTF working with NEA & AFT to secure Senate passage of House of Representatives “Jobs for Main Street Act”. New York State would receive \$1.43 billion. Contact your U.S. Senators asking support for this and any legislation that will prevent cuts. (See Document “A”).

V. 55/25 RETIREMENT INCENTIVE NOW LAW –

- a) Allows NYSUT members who are 55 or older with at least 25 years of service to retire without a penalty.
- b) Not an option of local school districts.

O-V-E-R → → →

(cont'd)

c) Pre-K – 12 – retirement window dates -- June 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010

VI. HOYT'S CALL FOR TEACHERS AND ONLY TEACHERS TO GIVE UP PAY INCREASE –

- a) BTF response press release – (**See Document “B”**)
- b) Councilmember, Joseph Golombeck, to announce for Hoyt's seat on April 28th at the American Legion at 601 Amherst Street (next to Wegmans) at 5:30 p.m. Teachers are encouraged to attend to show support and send Hoyt a message.
- c) BTF answers *The Buffalo News*' editorial supporting Hoyt's call for teacher wage freeze. (**See Document “C”**)

VII. SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION –

- a) Well-financed charter school candidates in most races.
- b) We face one of our most critical Board of Education elections. The pro-charter, anti-union challengers are well-organized and financed.
- c) Every contested incumbent's petitions were challenged. People were hired to circulate petitions for challengers.
- d) BTF has requested labels of all NYSUT members in each District. Ellis Woods, (President, BEST), Andy Sako (President, Erie Community College), and I will be sending letter requesting support for our candidates. We will also be arranging “robo dials”.

VIII. NEW EVALUATION PROCESS - Spring Break has hampered scheduling of meetings – Document will be sent to Delegate Chairs approximately 2 weeks prior to June meeting. May meeting is our dinner meeting.

IX. RACE TO THE “BOTTOM”/ESEA RE-AUTHORIZATION

- a) ESEA/No Child Left Behind is to be re-authorized by Congress.
- b) Much of the same absurd provisions from “Race To The Top” (Bottom) are being suggested.
- c) BTF opposes modeling ESEA on “Race To The Top” (Bottom). **See Document “D”**. Teachers should contact Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and their Congressman.

X. SUE TRAVIS TO RETIRE FROM BTF/NYSUT –

Sue Travis, the LRS assigned to BTF, will be retiring effective approximately April 30, 2010. As you can imagine, this will be a huge loss for Buffalo teachers.

Due to the short timeline, teachers interested in the position should send their resumé to: Mark Chaykin, NYSUT, 800 Troy-Schenectady Rd., Latham, NY 12110 or email: mchaykin@nysutmail.org. Applications should be received by May 3, 2010.

XI. OTHER LATE ITEMS

- a) J. I. T. – (Joint Intervention Teams)
- b) BTF Survey - Reminder

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

