

Schalmont Teachers' Association

STATIC

President's Report

February, 2008

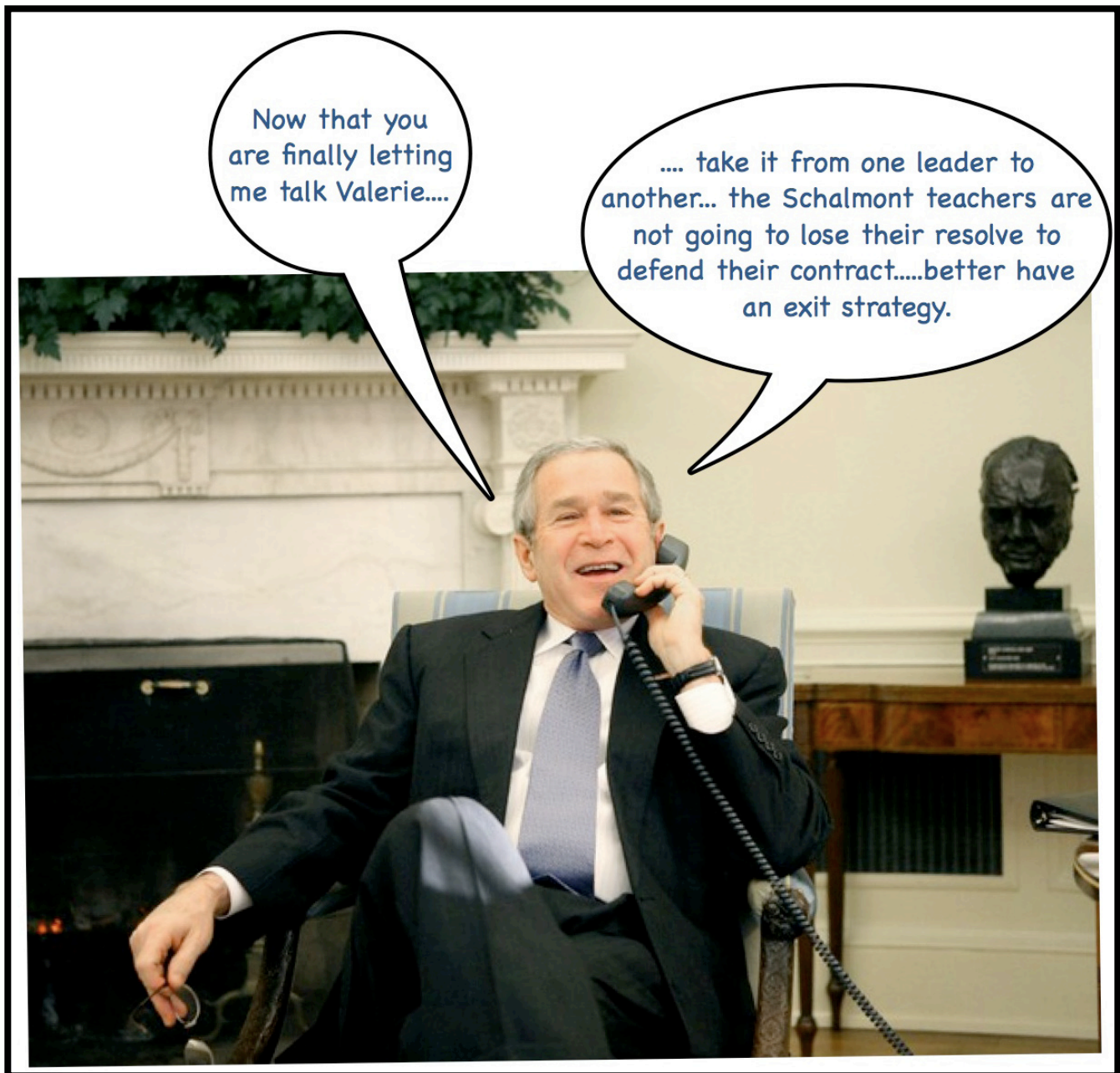


Photo found on http://daylife.com/photo/Ocb30Q53yk2SE/george_bush_on_phone

1st Vice President's Report Kelly Carroll

Voice Your Opinion on the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

In his final State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush waxed poetic about NCLB. The National Center for Fair and Open Testing was blunt in its response to Bush's address:

"President Bush's diehard commitment to renewing the flawed No Child Left Behind law reflects a triumph of blind faith over classroom realities," said Monty Neill, the group's executive director. "The truth is that the pace of educational improvement across the country has slowed since NCLB passed, according to the federal government's own National Assessment of Educational Progress. NCLB is forcing many schools to become test-prep factories. That has not improved school quality."

As an educator in the classroom, we are on the front line--directly impacted by this legislation-- and now we can have an effect on NCLB. We have a number of ways to impact the future legislation of the No Child Left Behind Act. While you might think that by sending a fax to a legislator may do little, it can have a major impact if we work as united union members to give voice to what we see as important to the education process.

"Instead of rushing to renew a broken law with fatal flaws, we need to first engage in a thoughtful debate about what is best for our nation's children. While the president agrees that changes need to be made to the law, we need to overhaul—not tweak—the law to help every child succeed," said the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) in a statement. "The six years since passage of NCLB have demonstrated that neither Congress nor the president had the will to finance an expanded federal role in education. We must continually examine our public schools and make system-wide changes to ensure schools are teaching children the skills they need to compete in the rapidly changing global environment. These 21st-century skills include collaboration, ingenuity, problem solving, creativity, and more—none of which is tested under NCLB."

You can help slow the reauthorization of NCLB by going to www.schalmontta.org and click on the NYSUT link, scroll to Resources, click Legislative Action Center, then choose Contact Your Elected Officials, and click View by Topic. At this point you will have choices of various items of interest that you can send to alert the governing bodies of your concern.

How do you send these letters?

1. Select letter(s). You may choose up to 3 letters to fax from the listings of letters for state representatives, federal representatives and the governor.
2. Click "Send Faxes." (You'll have a chance to preview before they're officially delivered.)
3. Determine your elected officials by zip code or by district then click "Look Up Representatives."
4. Enter your personal information.
5. Click "Send Faxes." This is all done via the computer; no fax machine needed.

Changes in Reporting Child Abuse

As you may already be aware, effective October 1, 2007, New York Social Services Law § 413 requires that child abuse and maltreatment reports from school officials and others be made in a timely fashion and personally by mandated reporters. For a complete list of mandated reporters, please visit: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/prevention/faqs.asp#mandated.

Your report will remain confidential. The Social Services Law provides confidentiality for mandated reporters and all sources of child abuse and maltreatment reports.

The following article from the December 6th edition of New York Teacher is the latest information available on how changes in reporting child abuse affect you.

How Changes in Reporting Child Abuse Affect You

Reprinted from New York Teacher, December 2007

When you suspect a child is being abused outside the educational setting, the wisest course has always been to report your concerns directly to the child abuse hotline. Now that's not just the most prudent response for teachers and other "mandated reporters," it's required by law. Mandated reporters of child abuse now must directly report their suspicions to the Statewide Central Register for Child Abuse and Maltreatment, rather than rely on the school principal or supervisor.

This change in Social Services state law, sponsored by Senate Education Committee Chairman Stephen Saland, clarifies murky requirements that had been subject to varying interpretations.

The new law, which went into effect in October, also clarifies that "school officials" who are mandated reporters include teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, school nurses, administrators and other school personnel required to hold a teaching or administrative license or certificate. Previously, "school officials" were defined as mandated reporters but the law did not specify what employees that included.

The mandatory reporting also applies to a wide range of staff in residential and non-residential programs for children, private schools and others.

The new law also makes it clear that school districts and other educational or health care employers cannot take retaliatory action against an employee who makes a child abuse report. A principal or supervisor cannot demand that prior approval is necessary before a report of suspected child abuse or maltreatment is filed.

Different reporting requirements apply to suspected child abuse in an educational setting.

NYSUT has always advised members to "err on the side of caution" in reporting suspicions of child abuse. As a June article in New York Teacher documented, policies for reporting child abuse have varied from district to district - and in some cases may have jeopardized speedy reporting. NYSUT analysts noted then that the confusing and sometimes contradictory requirements also jeopardized educators if their reports to a supervisor went unheeded.

"The new reporting requirements clearly streamline a process that may have slowed reporting of suspected child abuse," noted Steve Allinger, NYSUT legislative director. "At the same time, they provide helpful clarification on who is required to report and how it should be done."

"This will assure that reports do not fall through the cracks," said Saland, a Poughkeepsie Republican. The new reporting process avoids problems associated with getting a report second- or even third-hand, he added.

Anyone who is mandated to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment - and fails to do so - could be charged with a class A misdemeanor and sued in civil court for monetary damages, so "it's essential for everyone who cares for children to be aware of the law," Allinger said. Mandated reporters who make a report in good faith continue to be protected from any criminal or civil liability.

STA Congratulates Rebecca Vojtisek as She Retires

Becky received her B.S. in Elementary Education from American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts and her M.S. in Health Education from Russell Sage College in Troy, NY. After 33 years of teaching, 30 of them in Schalmont, Becky has retired.

Becky started her teaching career in the fall of 1974 at Farnsworth Middle School in Guilderland where she taught 6th grade Math and Science for three years. In 1977 she started teaching Math and Science in our Middle School. She taught there for 11 years before going to Mariaville Elementary to teach 4th grade. She has served on many building and district committees both in the Middle School and in Mariaville including the K-12 Gifted and Talented Committee as well as Math and Science committees over the



years. She was also part of the district CDEP and ELA 4 committees. She was a team leader in the Middle School and 4th grade Coordinator. Becky has also been involved in STA as a building representative and a NYSUT RA delegate.

"Throughout my years of teaching I have seen many changes in education. Many state mandates have occurred allowing for better, more defined curriculum. I applaud our district for setting high standards for teaching and allowing us teachers to experiment with new approaches to student learning. I am proud to have been a part of the Schalmont community and I am pleased to see so many Schalmont graduates come back to their district to work and teach. I have had so many wonderful experiences with the students and staff members and I will greatly miss them all."

Becky stated, "I don't have any specific plans for retirement other than to spend more time with family. Yes, there are the closets that need more organizing and garage sale items calling me. Dave and I would like to do some traveling, perhaps to Alaska. We both love to camp and golf so I'm sure we'll have more time to do those things."

Words of Wisdom:

The years go by so quickly so enjoy them all. As much as we have to share with our students, we have much to learn from them, so keep listening. Continue to be flexible and encourage and support each other.

Middle School Teacher Achieves National Board Teacher Certification

STA congratulates Lorinda Gandrow, eighth grade mathematics teacher, who attained National Board Teacher Certification in November. In the forthcoming paragraphs, Lorinda shares her thoughts regarding the certification process and what she discovered about her teaching as she made her journey.



"In the spring of 2006, I began an amazing journey into the National Board Certification process. I chose to attempt National Boards because I like to be challenged, and ultimately I'm always striving to become a better educator. Regardless of being successful or not, I knew that both my students and I would benefit from going through the process.

My 'journey' quickly turned into an emotion-filled adventure. Anxiety, self-doubt and frustration waged a war inside of me with my desire to achieve. My optimistic vision had gotten lost in the mix, and I became totally consumed by the process, which is something I anticipated, but totally underestimated. I was always thinking about the process, often waking in the middle of the night with the "perfect" words to phrase what I was writing about.

During the process, one of my biggest challenges was videotaping. After 20 videotapes, I finally was able to have the two-fifteen minute segments I was looking for. Another aspect I found difficult was to write in a way that focused on myself and the impact that I had on student learning. It was a new way of writing for me, which was challenging because writing had always come easy to me.

I was thankful to have joined the Union College National Board support group. I got to know an amazing group of people, and I believe the support group contributed a lot to my success. Also, I had the support and help from many teachers in Schalmont, along with STA and STI. I can't thank you enough for your help and support. I am lucky to work with all of you.



Although I'm still processing my achievement and what it truly means, I can honestly say that I am thankful I went through the process. I am much more reflective of my teaching and more aware of my students' needs, and what I can do to help them to achieve their fullest potential. I have become more confident with my teaching, and I now understand what it means to be a "passionate teacher." I am thankful the National Board Certification is a part of me, and I encourage others to consider the process. It truly is a life changing experience."

Has this article piqued your interest? Would you like to challenge yourself to work toward National Board Certification? Visit <http://www.nbpts.org> for information regarding the process.

Best Wishes to:

Mrs. Andrea (Cenci) Bryson, seventh grade Science teacher and her husband, Tom, who were married December 28, 2007.



Sue Foggo, sixth grade Social Studies teacher, on her recent engagement.

STA Welcomes New Members

Michelle Torre

With the retirement of Becky Vojtisek, we are happy to welcome Michelle Torre, who is teaching fourth grade at Mariaville Elementary School. Michelle earned her Bachelor's degree in Childhood Education from the College of Saint Rose and is currently working towards her M.S. in Literacy. During her undergraduate years, she student taught at Howe Magnet School in Schenectady and at the New Covenant Charter School in Albany. This past year, Michelle has been working as a substitute for various school districts in Capital Region BOCES.

Last summer, Michelle taught tutorial classes in phonics, literacy and mathematics at a daycare center. She stated, "This is my first year teaching in my own classroom and I am thrilled!" Michelle grew up in Princetown and is a Schalmont graduate. In high school, she participated in volleyball, basketball, and track and field. She has two brothers and a sister, who is a senior this year in the high school. Engaged to a Schalmont graduate, Michelle will wed August 2, 2008.



Nora Sabatini

STA is happy to welcome new member, Nora Sabatini, a Teacher Assistant in the high school. Nora previously worked for 5 years in the same capacity at Mohonasen High School. Prior to that, she was a substitute teacher, working for BOCES, mainly at Mohonasen. She graduated from Utica College of Syracuse University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice/Computer Security. Her first career was as a police officer for the Town of Rotterdam until 1990, when she married and moved to Syracuse.

Nora has been married to Mark Sabatini for 17 years and has three children: Audrey, 16; Daniel, 15; and Olivia, 12. She is actively involved as a drill instructor for the Mohonasen Marching Band and is the set designer for Mohon Masque Theatre. She also enjoys reading, knitting, and embroidery.

IDEA Grants Awarded

During the summer cycle, over \$30,000 was awarded for the following grants:

Amy Glick, Jessica Melchior, and Mary Zanta were awarded a Traditional Grant to purchase texts in specific genres and with certain comprehension strategies to use with 3rd and 4th grade students.

Elisa Pepe was awarded a mini-grant to purchase materials to create a unit designed to encourage students to read a variety of genres.

Michele Williams and Katie LeRoy used mini-grant funds to create a Kindergarten assessment binder.

DeeAnn Coniglio and Jane Azzaro created a teacher resource section in the Woestina library, similar to one at Jefferson Elementary including leveled readers.

Diane Babin and Kathy Mize, with Fran Jackson developed 7th and 8th grade math strategies to be used daily in the Home and Career Skills program to assist students in using math in their lives.

Shannon Farrell, Lori DeMeo, MaryBeth King, Susan Hennessy, and Marie Drislane purchased several document cameras to use with 2nd grade students.

Carol Kramer and Leea Mulone used IDEA Mini-Grant funds to revitalize a grant previously awarded to Crystal Hoey by creating take-home book bags with activities for parents to complete after reading a book with their child.

Susan Schiavo and Carrie Fiske were awarded a Traditional Grant to create literacy centers to be used with 5th grade students as a component within the new district literacy initiative.

Eileen Scheffer utilized IDEA Grant funds to expand upon a previous grant to create Music Connections in the Classroom for HS/MS English Language Arts and Social Studies classes.

Debra Carusone and Colette McKelvey developed monthly assessments in goal areas to assess student progress.

Kathy Cathell and Marty Rossner created a poetry unit to be used during a genre study with 4th grade students in conjunction with the new district literacy initiative.



Are You Using The MAP?

Approximately 2,000 NYSUT members have joined MAP, the Member Assistance Program through NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. Each week, more members sign up as they hear about the benefits.

MAP is a quick, painless, unobtrusive e-mail program that provides reminders about the more than 40 endorsed insurance, financial, legal and discount plans available to you as a NYSUT member.

MAP e-mails are sent every three weeks or so. You can open them at your convenience and no trees are killed in the process! You have the option of reading the brief text message or viewing it in html format in your browser, complete with eye-pleasing colors and graphics.

Very often, "MAP Alerts" include the opportunity to win valuable prizes donated by providers of endorsed programs. MAPers have received such prizes as a Bose Wave[®] Music System, tickets to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, OfficeMax gift cards and 100 free gallons of heating oil.

In addition, new MAP enrollees and existing MAPers are automatically entered into quarterly raffles; prizes to date have included digital cameras and an iPod nano.

What kind of information do you receive? The message may be an advance notice of a change in an existing plan, a new endorsement or simply a reminder about a program. Sometimes you will be asked your

opinions on programs under consideration for future endorsement, including which features are most important to you.

Most MAP messages are sent from Member Benefits. Occasionally a provider of an endorsed program will send one. Member Benefits oversees the content and frequency of messages. Your e-mail address will not be shared with outside parties other than endorsed program providers and then only under controlled circumstances. Once a program provider receives approval to send you an offer or information, the vendor is required to destroy the e-mail listing after sending the MAP Alert.



If you haven't yet joined, simply complete a brief sign-up form on the Member Benefits Web site, www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, and within three weeks, you'll start to receive MAP Alerts.

For information about this program or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust at (800) 626-8101, e-mail benefits@nysutmail.org, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed programs.

STA Launches New Feature on Website

Keeping in touch with former colleagues who have retired used to be difficult. But now, with the creation of a new feature on our STA website, present and past members can keep up-to-date with what our retired friends are doing just by clicking a button and checking out the site.

Carol Carelli, STA Webmaster, has developed a "Retiree Connection," designed to encourage all of our retired colleagues to keep in touch with the Schalmont community. A letter was sent to every retired STA member inviting them to participate in this project. They provided their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses and gave permission to have that information sent to other retirees upon request. Retirees can also have pictures posted and any other information they want others to know. They may access the addresses simply by emailing the webmaster and the information will be forwarded to them. (We did not want to post personal information over the internet).

Mark Alfano, retired middle school teacher, has joined forces with STA and created a listserv for retired Schalmont teachers and administrators. Registration is easy and there is also a link on the Retiree Connection for convenience.

The Schalmont Teachers' Association website was designed for all STA members, current and retired. Take a moment to check out the new feature at www.schalmontta.org !



Here are some Schalmont Teachers' Association Retirees in a summer luncheon shot. They took time out for this photo opportunity, but don't be fooled, they are very busy in retirement doing a number of great and benevolent things!

STA Executive Board Minutes December 4, 2007

Members present: Alisha Bahrmann, (President); Michele Williams, (Executive Vice President); Kelly Carroll, (1st Vice President); Pete Rings, (2nd Vice President); Carol Carelli, (Secretary); Mary Beth Flatley, (Treasurer); Chris Bailey, Jason Beck, Lori Bittner, Kathy Cathell, Deborah D'Arcangelis, Mary Beth Flatley, Michael Foley, (Retiree Rep.); Sue Hennessy, Kim Knapik, Carol Kramer, Katie LeRoy, Kevin Meachem, Carol Russell, Jeff VanHoesen.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M.

- Approval of minutes from November 5, 2007 meeting
Motion to accept made by Mary Beth Flatley; seconded by Kevin Meachem - Motion carried.

Officers' Reports

1st Vice President - Kelly Carroll

- Still working on APPR concerns. If anyone has questions, contact Kelly.

2nd Vice President - Pete Rings

- During the open enrollment for MVP, they added a 3rd tier for formulary drugs. Members were not informed of the change which meant that members did not have accurate information before choosing a health care provider during the Open Enrollment Period. Alisha and Pete spoke with Mark Kellett. The insurance company is required by law to notify employers of any change and the district is required to inform members, which they did not. MVP's stance is that the district was required to inform the members, not MVP. Pete is still investigating.

Treasurer - Mary Beth Flatley

- Budget reports for November and December will be sent to executive board members.
- Review of STA accounts.
Dues are given to the treasurer by the District Office on a monthly basis.
- Submission of receipts - Mary Beth has been getting a lot of receipts from members and there was no standard for record-keeping, so she has developed a form for reimbursement. It will be posted on the website. Members requesting reimbursement will now need to submit the form with the receipt for payment which will be made at the middle and end of the month.
- Mary Beth also discussed how large amounts can be accommodated (for large purchases)

Secretary - Carol Carelli

- Handed out thank you notes from Alisha Bahrmann and Becky Vojtisek.
- Distributed a list of emails/home addresses for executive board. Will make corrections for next meeting.
- Discussed creation of "Retiree Connection" on STA website - a feature which will allow retirees a place to "connect" with other retirees and allow current members to "keep in touch" with them.

President - Alisha Bahrmann

- Thanked members for gift - gave an update on her health
- STI Open House - December 12, 2007, hosted by STI Policy Board. All are encouraged to attend.
- Nurse coverage - Discussion of on-going issue in the HS, MS and Jefferson to get nurse coverage. Alisha sent a formal letter to Valerie requesting the consideration of an additional nurse position within the District as they work on the budget together for 2008-2009.

STA Executive Board Minutes Continued December 4, 2007

- Holiday parties - Each building will be allotted \$100 for holiday costs (party, etc).

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Odyssey of the Mind - new club instructor will be paid \$600. Stipend is based on the number of hours. Melissa West will be the instructor.

Motion to approve MOU made by Lori Bittner; seconded by Deborah D'Arcangelis - Motion carried.

Grievance Update - Pete Rings

- The date of the Step Therapy grievance is set for February 26, 2008. The decision is binding. Pete encouraged teachers to ASK QUESTIONS whenever they are denied coverage for medications.

Appointments

- Discussed the stipend for Mentor Coordinator. Motion was made to increase the stipend for the mentor coordinator from \$1000 to 1200, which is consistent with other positions. Motion was made by Mary Beth Flatley; Seconded by Kelly Carroll - Motion carried.

Fact-finding pre-hearing Update - Michael Foley

- The fact-finding meeting on November 29, 2007 had 19 issues. Fact-finder, Peter Prosper, and the STA are looking for common ground. The district has still not changed its position. January 28, 2008 is the next fact-finding meeting. Discussed the effects of not settling.

Crisis Committee Update and Planning

- The committee has 3 goals:
 - Streamline Communication
 - Organize schedule of meetings
 - Plan actions
- The committee will get the Crisis Committee Action minutes to the executive board for the next meeting.
- Action Committee contact people were chosen for each building
- Encouraged non-executive board people to lead the January 7, 2008 meeting of the Action Committee
- The committee broke into groups to discuss future plans

Building Concerns

- MS
 - Suggestion that we try to get a place in Rotterdam to schedule a meetings. Some members have contacts in the area so that our meetings can be local. We may have to pay a fee for usage.

High School

- Discussion of new student information system and parent portal.
- Concerns of School to Work coordination by administration.
- Concerns regarding liability of coaches for students who leave campus before practice instead of attending Athletic Study Hall.
- Concerns of Superintendent making unannounced observations to classes without the knowledge of the teacher or HS principal.

Jefferson

- APPR issue with 1st year teachers - Comments for criteria do not match the score given to the teacher.
- Discussion of concerns regarding actions of Beth Bini, Jefferson Assistant Principal

Motion to adjourn made by Kathy Cathell; Seconded by Kim Knapik - Meeting adjourned at 6:17 P.M.

STA Executive Board Minutes January 8, 2008

Members Present: Alisha Bahrmann, (President); Michele Williams, (Executive Vice President); Kelly Carroll, 1st Vice President; Pete Rings, 2nd Vice President; Carol Carelli, (Secretary); Mary Beth Flatley, (Treasurer); Chris Bailey, Kevin Meachem, Carol Russell (HS); Deborah D'Arcangelis, Mike DiCocco, JoAnn Lasky (MS); Lori Bittner, Kathy Cathell, Sue Hennessy, Carol Kramer (Jefferson); Katie LeRoy (Woestina); Michael Foley (Retiree Rep.).

The meeting was called to order at 3:55 P.M.

- Approval of minutes from December 4, 2007 meeting with changes
Motion to accept made by Kathy Cathell; seconded by Kevin Meachem. Motion carried.

Secretary Report - Carol Carelli

- Cards were sent to the following members: Melissa Pierson, Carol Giardenelli, Sandy Vannatten, Andrea Cenci
- Retiree connection is up and running on the website. Many retirees have contacted us to add their information to the site

Treasurer Report - Mary Beth Flatley

- Amount for STA dues full membership for tax purposes is \$807.07 for 2007.
- Distributed November and January budgets.
- Distributed new re-imbusement form for members. Members can get one from her or it is posted on the STA website.

Vice Presidents' Reports

Executive Vice President - Michele Williams

- Buddy program is doing well. Mentors have been invited to assist.

2nd Vice President - Pete Rings

- Grievance regarding adding the 3rd tier for non-formulary drugs still active. STA has filed a formal grievance.
- Discussion of process of formulary vs. non-formulary drugs.
- Discussion process has on 125 plans.

President's Report - Alisha Bahrmann

- Motion made to suspend the agenda not to return.

Motion made by Mary Beth Flatley; seconded by Deborah D'Arcangelis. Motion carried.

- Alisha requested a leave of absence from her duties as President from January 28- June 30, 2008 due to health reasons. Read a letter explaining her reasons and asked for the STA Executive Board's approval.

STA Executive Board Minutes Continued January 8, 2008

Motion made to accept leave of absence made by Mike Foley; seconded by Deborah D'Arcangelis. Motion carried.

In Alisha's absence, Executive Vice President, Michele Williams distributed copies of STA constitution regarding next in line appointments.

- Michele Williams requested a medical leave of absence due to health reasons from January 28-June 30, 2008.

Motion made to accept Michele Williams' request for leave of absence from January 28 - June 30, 2008, due to health reasons, made by Mike Foley; seconded by Jo Ann Lasky. Motion carried.

Mike Foley explained the process of succession when constitution is "silent". The board can decide how they would like to proceed.

Negotiations - Michael Foley

- Discussion of vacancies on negotiating team due to Alisha's leave of absence and to Laura Hemphill's resignation.

Motion made to appoint Mary Beth Flatley to the STA negotiation team made by JoAnn Lasky; seconded by Carol Russell. Motion carried.

- We still would like an elementary representative on the team. Decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.
- Discussion of process for appointing an interim President. The board decided to write a letter to the membership explaining the situation and how the process for succession would occur. Members of the executive board were asked for their interest and those interested would make a statement to the board at the January 15, 2008 meeting, outlining their qualifications and interest in the position. The executive board would then appoint an interim President.

A motion to accept the selection process was made by Carol Kramer; seconded by Carol Russell. Motion carried.

An emergency STA Executive Board meeting will take place on January 15, 2008.

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Meachem; seconded by Kelly Carroll. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 P.M.

**STA Executive Board Meeting
Special Session
January 15, 2008**

Members attending: Michele Williams (Exec. VP); Kelly Carroll (1st VP); Pete Rings (2nd VP); MaryBeth Flatley (Treasurer), Mike Foley (Retiree Rep.); Chris Bailey, Jason Beck, Kevin Meachem, Carol Russell (HS); Deborah D'Arcangelis, Mike DiCocco, Joann Lasky, Jeff VanHoesen (MS); Kathy Cathell, Sue Hennessey,), Carol Kramer (Jefferson); Kim Knapik, Mariaville); Katie LeRoy (WE).

The meeting was called to order at 3:56 P.M. by Executive VP, Michele Williams.

Kevin Meachem was appointed note taker in the absence of the Secretary.

- Discussion and Appointment of Acting STA President
- MaryBeth Flatley submitted her name as a candidate to serve as acting STA President. No other name was submitted. MaryBeth discussed her reasons and qualifications (having arrived from Catholic school service to Schalmont at a time of contractual conflict and appreciating the protection provided by a teachers' union; having served successfully in the political action position; her success with VOTE-COPE; revising the STA election procedures; work on school budget votes; service on previous negotiating teams; STA treasurer for the past 5 years, etc.) and then excused herself from the meeting.
- MOTION was made to move to Executive Session to discuss MaryBeth's candidacy by Michele Williams; seconded by Kevin Meachem. Motion carried unanimously.
- MOTION was made to move out of Executive Session by Pete Rings; seconded by Carol Kramer. Motion carried unanimously.
- MOTION was made to appoint MaryBeth Flatley as Acting STA President from 1/28/08 to 6/30/08, by Michele Williams; seconded by Kim Knapik. Motion carried unanimously. MaryBeth was then called back to the meeting.
 - Discussion ensued about relieving MaryBeth from the Crisis Committee and to set up Co-Chairs for that committee (one to be Kevin Meachem and another one to be sought from membership).

MOTION to do same was made by Mike Foley; seconded by Pete Rings. Motion carried unanimously. Stipend to be discussed at a later date.

- Memo informing the membership to MaryBeth's election will be written by and distributed to the various buildings. Memo to include creation of Crisis Committee Co-Chairs and call for those interested to contact Alisha by 1/23/08.
- Michele Williams will coordinate and distribute by January 16, 2008
- Co-Chair of Crisis Committee will be selected by Alisha after consulting with MaryBeth and Kevin prior to the February 5, 2008 Exec. Board meeting. Executive Board to approve.
- Discussion and Appointment of Grievance Chairperson
Executive Board needs to fill the yearly appointment as Grievance Chair held by Alisha Bahrmann. Peter Rings volunteered. There were no other volunteers.

STA Executive Board Meeting Continued
Special Session
January 15, 2008

MOTION was made to appoint Pete Rings as Grievance Committee Chairperson effective immediately until 6/30/08, by Kathy Cathell; seconded by Katie LeRoy. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion and Appointment of Negotiating Team Members
- Carol Kramer indicated an interest in participating on the negotiating team, representing the elementary faculty.
- MOTION was made to appoint Carol Kramer to the negotiating team to fill the vacant Elementary representative slot by Pete Rings; seconded by MaryBeth Flatley. Motion carried unanimously

Discussion and approval of 2008-09 School Calendar

- A draft of the 2008-09 school year calendar was distributed and reviewed. The draft must also be approved by BOCES and the Board of Education.
- MOTION was made to approve the draft of the 2008-09 school year calendar by Michele Williams; seconded by Kelly Carroll. Motion carried unanimously.

Bargaining Update - Mike Foley

- Mike reviewed the outstanding issues for both the STA and the district. Discussion ensued on various issues under negotiation, as well as how the STA should proceed to show its displeasure, and the need to hold a General Membership meeting soon.

Other Business

- Carol Russell suggested a return to name plate being used at future Executive Board meetings to facilitate discussions and help members learn everyone else's names. Mary Beth will be responsible for providing them at the next meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn was made at 5:58P.M. by Carol Russell; seconded by Kim Knapik. Motion carried.

Kooky Cartoon



President: Alisha Bahrmann (LOA)
Interim President: Mary Beth Flatley
Vice Presidents: Michele Williams (LOA)
Kelly Carroll
Peter Rings
Secretary: Carol Carelli
Treasurer: Mary Beth Flatley
Political Action: Lori DeMeo
Shannon Farrell
STA Phone/FAX: 356-3774
Cell: 339-5673

The Static is the official publication of the Schalmont Teachers' Association, and is published during the school year. The Schalmont Teachers' Association is affiliated with the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers.

Co-Editors: Kelly Carroll
Carol Carelli

E-Mail:
Alisha Bahrmann Alisha@nycap.rr.com
Mary Beth Flatley mflatley@nycap.rr.com
Michele Williams michele@nycap.rr.com
Kelly Carroll kcarroll1@nycap.rr.com
Peter Rings scotiarings@myway.com
Carol Carelli ccarelli@nycap.rr.com

STA Web Site: www.schalmontta.org