

Schalmont Teachers' Association

STATIC

President's Report

April 2009

The chill of winter has been long this year. World events, the national front, the economy and all of the related uncertainties have occupied space in our thoughts. Along with the rest of the world, we have watched our investment portfolios get thinner. We have seen changes to our property values. We have wrestled with unemployment fears for our family members and perhaps for ourselves.

In addition, our profession and union membership have once again been placed under the microscope both in the media and around dinner tables. While this scrutiny is especially predictable in tough economic times, it tests our patience, questions our fortitude and condemns our resolve as educators and union members.

As we faced what felt like a winter of discontent, we had the comfort of knowing that STA has stood behind us as individuals and for our profession. We knew no matter what happened we were not alone. We were, and are, able to count on this support due to our solidarity and because of our colleagues who have taken a more active role within STA.

It is now the time of the year when members have an opportunity to formally voice their interest in becoming more actively involved in STA. Our membership is an extremely talented, wise and visionary group of people. As we begin to plan for the upcoming year, the STA officers and building representatives need your help. They cannot do it on their own.

STA is a representative government. Its leaders are elected by the membership. During the upcoming month, consider running for an office, building representative, or a delegate to NYSUT's Representative Assembly. Within the next month all members will have the opportunity to submit his/her name as a candidate.

Other opportunities exist within STA for leadership and involvement. There are several committees that benefit from the talents and wisdom of members. Please consider becoming a mentor, an STI Policy Board member, a member of the IDEA Grant Committee, or part of the STA Scholarship Committee.

Do you have opinions you would like to share? Volunteer to write a piece for the STATIC. Consider working with our political action chairs to foster grass root initiatives within our district.

No contribution is too large or too small. Consider lending some of your time and talent to these positions that continue to bolster our profession and our vision. The efforts of the many are what define STA. Your involvement will help continue to write this definition.

Alisha Couse

Understanding Your Paycheck

Listed below are the explanations for the various deductions you will see on your paycheck stub. It is important that all members regularly examine their stubs to make sure that the compensation you are receiving is correct. It is also wise to make sure that your contributions to the health insurance and any miscellaneous deductions are accurate. If you have any questions about your paycheck stub, please contact the Payroll Office. This is especially important in the beginning of the new school year.

A	This is your contract salary divided by the number of paychecks issued (21 or 26). Teachers interested in 26 paychecks must apply annually.
B	This is the Coordinator's stipend ÷ 21 paychecks (other payment options are available)
C	This is the coach's salary ÷ 21 paychecks (other payment options are available)
D	This is club advisor salary ÷ 21 paychecks (other payment options are available)
E	This is chaperone pay equal to \$24.70 x the number of hours worked
F	This is the advanced pay that members are eligible to receive the first week back to school in the fall. Teachers interested in this must apply each year.
G	Mandatory Social Security contribution – based on income level.
H	Mandatory Federal Income Tax withholding – based on income level
I	City – not used
J	This is the extra premium members pay when they double the amount of life insurance provided by the district ÷ 21
K	This is payment for various insurances, ranging from auto, life, health, etc. which are available through NYSUT. This is the direct payroll deduction for this insurance. Deducted from 20 paychecks (1 st pay in Sept- 1 st Pay in June)
L	This is the STA dues deduction ÷ 21
M	This is the 125-Flex plan contribution (optional). This plan is a government authorized pre-taxable deduction that may be utilized for specific health or other related services. Deductions take place during calendar year (January – December), NOT September – June ÷ 21
N	This is the 3% Teachers' Retirement System contribution you must make for 10 years. At the beginning of your 11 th year in the system, make sure it is not being withheld.
O	This is your payment for a TRS (Teachers' Retirement System) Loan
P	Mandatory contribution to Medicare
Q	Mandatory NYS Income tax – amount is based on income level
R	This is the premium for dental insurance – it also identifies which plan you are enrolled in (Dent-IF = Instructional (teacher) Family) ÷ 21
S	This is your health insurance provider is listed. (MVP-IF= Instructional (teacher) Family) ÷ 21
T	This identifies the Optical plan you are in – OPT-FAM= Family ÷ 21
U	This is the political action committee deduction (VOTE-COPE). Amount pledged per paycheck
V	This is the amount you are contributing to your 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity ÷ 21
W	This amount represents the amount of your paycheck directly deposited into a bank of your choice.
X	Federal Exemptions – designated by individual – Additional Withholding is available if you need to have more money withheld each pay period to pay income taxes
Y	State Exemptions – designated by individual – additional withholding is available if you need to have more money withheld each pay period to pay income taxes
Z	City Exemptions– not used
AA	This indicates which retirement system you are enrolled in –TRS– New York State Teachers' Retirement System
AB	This is your NYSTRS identification number
AC	This is the tier you were hired under – used to determine retirement benefits
AD	This is the annual contract salary you are receiving – includes graduate credits, National Board Certification stipend and 2 nd Masters degree but not extra compensation for activities

Understanding Your Paycheck

SCHALMONT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHALMONT CSD

401 DUANESBURG ROAD
SCHENECTADY, NY 12306

142180

DATE: 09/26/08

Employee Name	Employee Number	SSN	Pay Period	Building	Ref#
MARY A SMITH	123		09/13/08-09/26/08	HS	142180

Earnings	Units	Rate	Current Period	Pay	Cal Year To Date	Fis Year To Date
A CONTRACT			3,008.24		41,112.05	6016.48
B COORD.		160.20	160.20		160.20	160.20
C COACH		181.81	181.81		181.81	181.81
D ADVISOR		24.58	24.58		24.58	24.58
E CHAP.	3.5	24.70	84.25		84.25	84.25
F ADV. PAY					500.00	500.00
Totals			3,459.08		42062.89	6967.32

Deductions	Current Pay Period	Cal Year to Date	Fis Year To Date	Deductions	Current Pay Period	Cal Year To Date	Fis Year To Date
G FICA	237.53	3816.73	703.39	P MEDI	55.55	892.60	164.51
H FEDERAL	536.92	7985.34	1220.04	Q STATE	222.24	3464.27	551.09
I CITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	R DENT-IF	11.04	141.01	22.08
J LIFE INS	2.86	41.18	5.72	S MVP-IFAM	36.53	466.13	73.06
K NYSUT	88.66	1241.24	177.32	T OPT-FAM	1.13	14.44	2.26
L TR DUES	41.03	592.64	82.06	U VT/COPE	3.00	45.00	6.00
M 125-FLEX	25.00	300.00	50.00	V TSA-FID	300.00	3600.00	300.00
N TRS	90.15	90.25	90.25				
O TRSLN	40.00	40.00	40.00				
Totals					\$1,691.64	\$22,730.74	\$3,487.15

Direct Deposit	Current Pay Period	Direct Deposit	Current Pay Period
W FIRST TEACHERS CREDIT	\$1,000.00		

Exemptions	Additional Withholding	Retirement Sys.	No.	Tier	Contract
X FED: M2	0.00	TRS	78945	4	79536
Y STATE: M2	0.00				
Z CITY	0.00	AA	AB	AC	AD

*****TIME SHEET & SUBSTITUTE TEACHER PAYMENTS INCLUDE 8/30/08 THROUGH 9/12/08*****

Check Totals	Gross Pay	Deductions	Net Pay	Direct Deposit	Check Amount
	3,459.08	1,691.64	1,767.44	1,000.00	767.44

Were You Certified After February 2, 2004?

If you answered "yes" to that question, you recently received a letter from Kelly Healy regarding your certification and professional development hours and responsibilities. In the event that you did not receive the information, please email the date of your certification to Kelly (kellyh@nycap.rr.com) so it can be entered into STA records. This will insure that you get the information and are not overlooked in future mailings.

Retiring this year? Don't miss this important workshop!

There will be a workshop to complete the paperwork required to open your 403-b account for unused sick days.



- Thursday June 11, 2009
- 3:30 PM
- Middle School Conference Room
- Contact Pete Rings at the Middle School to confirm that you will be attending - 355-6255 Extension 2055 or email prings@sabrenet.net

If you are retiring at the end of the school year it is extremely important that you attend this session. You can only receive your money through a 403-b account by following the guidelines of the contract. All retirees should notify the district of their intention before attending this workshop. If you have not yet made your retirement decision, you may confidentially contact Pete Rings at the middle school for information. If you are unable to attend the workshop, an individual appointment must be set up.

How to Enroll in Direct Deposit

All instructional staff now have the ability to have their paycheck deposited directly in any bank or credit union of their choice. You can sign up for direct deposit at any time. You can also change the institution to which you are having your check deposited at any time, as well.

Enrollment is simple. First, contact the Payroll Office for a "Direct Deposit Application." Next, complete the "OPT IN" section of the form. To have your check deposited into your checking account, attach a blank check with VOID written on it. To have your check deposited into your savings account, simply attach a letter from your bank or credit union that has their routing number and your savings account number on it. You can also split your paycheck, by putting some money into a savings account and some in a checking account. You also have the option to use two different banks, putting some of your check in one bank and the balance in the another. Contact Laura Hungershafer in Payroll with questions.



Congratulations to STA Families:

Heather Cohen (High School) and her husband, Bill, on the birth of a baby boy, Eli, born March 10, 2009. Eli weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Mike DiCocco (Middle School) and his wife, Monica, on the birth of their son, Duilio Michael, born January 21, 2009. Duilio weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. His sisters, Adriana, 4 and Michaela, 2 are thrilled to have a little brother!



Jessica Melchoir (Jefferson) and her husband, Bill, on the birth of their son, Joshua Bailey, born March 13, 2009. Joshua weighed in at 8 lb. 4 oz. and is 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Joshua's big brother Liam, is 3.



Engagement News

Congratulations to Jeanne Ramsey, middle school teacher on her recent engagement.

STA Website and STATIC Win Accolades

The STA website and STATIC received statewide recognition in the New York Teacher Journalism Competition for 2009. The contest, sponsored by "New York Teacher," recognizes outstanding NYSUT local union publications throughout the state. Our **STATIC** won Honorable Mention for General Excellence and the **STA website** won Honorable Mention for Best Website. This was our first year entering the contest and we are pleased and honored to receive state recognition. Kelly Healy and Carol Carelli are the editors of the STATIC and Carol Carelli is the webmaster for the STA website.



The editors remind all STA members that we are always looking for more "news," both for the STATIC and for the website. Perhaps your story, article, or political cartoon would help our local union newspaper to place higher in the standings next year! In this issue, we introduce "Creative Connections," where you can tell your story about your connections with colleagues, students and our profession.

The Editors can't do it alone. Lend a hand-submit news items. What's happening in your building? Are you in a unique certification area and have knowledge to share? Have you found some interesting websites that may be of interest to others? Are you a talented artist who has a political cartoon to share? The STATIC is your union voice. Send ideas in MS Word via email to either one of the STATIC editors. Next issue due out in June.



Creative Connections

Introspection—n.

a reflective looking inward;

an examination of one's own thoughts and feelings

For several years I have had the opportunity to advise Introspection, Schalmont High School's Literary Magazine, a club that provides students with an outlet to publish their original artwork, photography, poetry, and short stories.



Producing such elaborate issues uses a lot of paper and ink, which is rather costly. Often, the issues are only read by people in the high school building. In an effort to be more economical, environmentally conscientious, and to reach out to the community to share in reading these issues, the students of this club have decided to publish all our issues electronically. This provides all community members, faculty and staff with a chance to see Schalmont students' artwork and writing in full color. We also place our June issues in the Sabre's Edge Yearbook. Hopefully, using the school's webpage and the yearbook to publish our issues will create a sense of

permanence for our artists and enable many individuals to celebrate and appreciate the effort and talent of so many students.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Geralyn Zink (HS Art) and Tracy Pontin (Yearbook Advisor/ HS English) for working with me to produce these issues. Carol Carelli, Deb Falcone and the Schalmont Teachers' Institute have provided endless technology support too. Lastly, I would like to thank the HS English Department for encouraging their students to submit work. Collaborating with each other has made this endeavor possible.

Sometimes when students leave our classrooms, we can only hope that we have made a lasting impression upon them. By looking at these issues, I want you to see how what you have done as teachers has helped many of our students to grow as thinkers, writers, and artists over the years. You have shaped their identities and have enabled them to become introspective.

To see the issues go to: www.schalmont.org/HS/Introspection/Introspection.htm.

Enjoy!

Sarah Mattice (HS English)

Voice Of Teachers in Education, the Committee On Political Education

The primary goal of VOTE-COPE is to support the goals of public education and protect all of NYSUT's constituents, from our newest members to our retirees.

Take a moment and look at all of the things that VOTE-COPE has done for you.

VOTE-COPE lobbies for:

- state aid for education and health care;
- decent working conditions;
- a secure retirement;
- affordable prescription drugs; and affordable health coverage.

VOTE-COPE also:

- * takes on those whose agenda is decidedly anti-union;
- * works for resources to help students who are striving to reach higher standards;
- * encourages smaller class sizes through legislation;
- * supports competitive salaries to recruit qualified teachers;
- * fights for state aid increases so newly hired teachers can be safe from financially motivated layoffs;
- * advocates for affordable tuition at public colleges to keep graduate program costs down; and
- * lobbies for mentor program legislation to provide critical support to new teachers.

For good or for bad, the future of quality public education, as well as the future of your profession, your retirement and your health care, is bound to decisions coming out of Albany and Washington.

In recent years VOTE-COPE has helped to secure:

- a permanent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for retiree pensions;
- Teacher Center funding;
- the elimination of Tier inequities such as the mandatory 3% contribution for Tier 3 and 4 members of the NYS Retirement System (these members now only pay into the system for 10 years instead of their entire career);
- the continued enforcement of tenure laws and legislation like the Triborough Amendment (which continues the terms of expired contracts until successor agreements are negotiated);
- momentum for greater investment in our schools; and
- historic overrides of vetoes that restored \$1 billion in education and health care funding;

On the national level VOTE-COPE has helped in the fight against privatizing Social Security. A study by the Women's National Law Center found that privatizing Social Security will increase poverty among the elderly and those with disabilities. Additionally, VOTE-COPE has helped to prevent the passage of anti-public education measures like vouchers and tuition tax credits throughout New York and all 50 states.

The single greatest form of VOTE-COPE expenditures, however, comes in the form of rebates to locals. These rebates supply the resources necessary to **run campaigns for school budget initiatives and elections of pro-public education candidates for school board races**. Smaller class sizes, greater investments in technology and capital improvements, higher standards and the resources to achieve them are all a part of VOTE-COPE. You should be a part of VOTE-COPE, too. **When we speak with one voice, we make a difference. Your building reps will have payroll deduction forms available to make contributing easy and seamless.**

For more information, contact

STA Political Action Coordinators: **Joann Perillo-Lasky**
jperilloms@yahoo.com

Lori DeMeo
lldemeo@nycap.rr.com





INNOVATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Schalmont Teachers' Association / Schalmont Central School District

2009-2010 **Summer IDEA Grant Deadlines** **\$48,000 to be awarded**

Traditional and Mini Grants Available

Application date:	May 8, 2009
Interview date (Traditional Grants):	May 19 and 26, 2009
Submission due date:	October 8, 2009

For more information regarding the grant process and application procedures, consult the STA website www.schalmontta.org and click the IDEA Grant link.

- Traditional Grants have a maximum award limit of \$10,000. In addition to the standard application process, an interview with the Grant Committee is required.
- Mini Grants have a maximum award limit of \$2,500. They are evaluated through the standard application process.

IDEA Grant Committee
Kelly Healy, Chairperson
Beth Bini, Susan Cook, Jacqueline Gordon, Elisa Pepe, Wendy Stearns

Who doesn't love a discount?

Especially these days, if you can save a little here, a little there, doesn't that make the purchase even more special?

NYSUT Member Benefits Trust endorses a variety of discount programs ranging from office supplies and movies to appliances and heating oil.

Read on for a brief description of all of the endorsed discount programs available to you from Member Benefits. **To ensure you'll get the NYSUT member discounts**, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101 for details.

Bose® - Special pricing on Bose consumer products, including music systems, computer speakers and home theater systems.

Dell - Receive a 7 percent discount on most items such as laptops, desktops, printers, plasma screens and more. Or choose a pre-configured system at a discounted price.

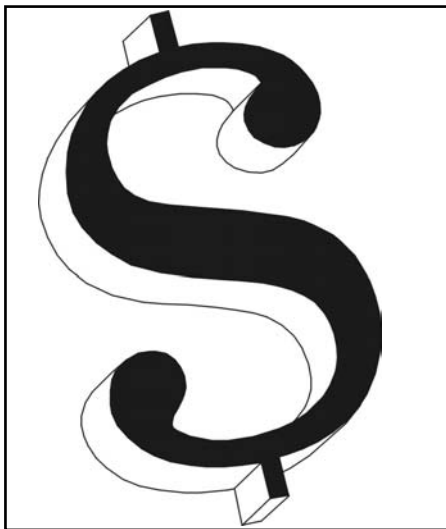
Barnes & Noble.com - Discounted items up to 40 percent. Members receive an additional 5 percent discount only through the Member Benefits Web site.

OfficeMax Retail ConnectSM - Discounts from 10 percent to 40 percent off certain office supplies and services at OfficeMax retail locations when providing the OfficeMax discount card at time of purchase. If OfficeMax is not in your vicinity, you can order online (you'll need username,

password and Internet address to receive the discount online).

Working Advantage - Order discounted tickets for movie theaters, movie rentals, theme parks, Broadway shows, sporting events, online shopping and more.

Six Flags - Purchase discounted admissions to participating parks using the Member Benefits Web site link.



Philips Lifeline - A simple push of a button gets appropriate help in a timely manner to relatives who live alone. Receive a discount off the initial installation fee and monthly monitoring costs.

Car & Truck Rentals - Discounted car rentals from Alamo, Avis, Budget and Hertz. Discounted local and one-way truck rentals from Budget Truck Rental.

The Buyer's Edge - Use this buying service to comparison shop for your best deal on major appliances, furniture, luggage, automobiles and more.

HEAT USA - Substantial discounts on heating oil. Free lifetime 24-hour service contract, annual cleaning and more. Available in limited areas in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. First-year membership is \$25; receive second year membership free.



For information about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust 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 Executive Board Meeting Minutes January 6, 2009

Members present: Alisha Couse, President; Kelly Healy, 1st Vice President; Peter Rings, 2nd Vice President, Carol Carelli, Secretary; MaryBeth Flatley, Treasurer; Chris Bailey, Stacy Barron, Lori Bittner, Deborah D'Arcangelis, Mike DiCocco, Michael Foley, Retiree Rep; Sue Hennessy, Joann Lasky, Katie LeRoy, Kevin Meachem, Carol Russell. Absent: Jason Beck, Kathy Cathell, Jeff VanHoesen, Carol Walker

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

Approval of Minutes - Motion made by Mary Beth Flatley to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting. Seconded by Kevin Meachem. Motion carried.

Building Concerns

High School

- Department Chairs met with a mediator - Directives given to them in the fall. Dr. Kelsey felt that something should be done to help facilitate the group, to encourage them to get along.
- Discussion of Dr. Kelsey's proposal to explore "learning communities".
- HS Faculty meetings are now always 1 hour, even if there is no need to take the entire hour - meetings continue to be held with no agenda

Jefferson

- Mary Beth King has resigned as Grade Coordinator for 2nd grade - no replacement yet.
- Child Study Team meetings are being held starting right at 8:30 A.M. Contract states that the elementary day is 6 hours and 40 minutes (8:30 - 3:10). However, in the past, meetings have started at 8:45 so that teachers had the opportunity to meet with the substitutes.
- Bus Duty - Teachers are being called at 8:40 to remind them of bus duty. Bus duty starts at 8:45.
- Parents are "showing up" at classrooms before school start without appointments. This is preventing teachers from getting their classrooms prepared for the arrival of students.
- Concerns of the temperature of rooms.

Treasurer Report - Mary Beth Flatley

- Handed out budget as of January 6, 2009

Secretary Report - Carol Carelli

- Sent cards to Carl Strang, Mike DellaVilla, Mike Foley
- Sent a Christmas floral arrangement to Elisa Pepe congratulating her on achieving National Board Teacher Certification

STA Executive Board Meeting Minutes, continued

January 6, 2009

Vice President Report- 2nd Vice President - Pete Rings

- Still having issues with the process for hiring "high profile" coaches. Process should be consistent for all coaching positions.

President's Report - Alisha Couse

- Health and Safety
 - Some of the lights in the schools are going off too early - Any Principal can "override" the program to arrange for lighting if staff is in the building after hours.
 - Alisha will talk to Bronson about notifying principals when STI courses are being taught after hours.
 - Still having heating problems in the HS. Some of this is related to newer and older parts of the building. The district knows of these and is working to rectify the situations. In the meantime if rooms are below 65 degrees, teachers should contact the principal for alternative location to have class.
 - Teachers should let Terri McCreddie and the building principal know if the room is extremely cold.
 - STA is asking for data to see how much money is actually being saved.
- Independent study concerns about compliance for elementary PE is still being addressed. The state is in the process of auditing programs in schools
- Holiday party money from STA has increased the amount to HS/MS/ Jefferson to \$200 due to larger staffs and \$100 to Mariaville and Woestina.
- Executive Board members are encouraged to attend as many Board of Education meetings as possible.
- Executive Board Officer positions - We will be discussing the responsibilities and structure of the Officer Positions at the February meeting.
- Increased tax liabilities due to increased Life Insurance - The district was supposed to put together an explanation of the tax implications for teachers who purchase the additional life insurance. Deductions were made in the last check of the 2008 year. The district was negligent in its responsibility to inform employees of changes in payroll matters. In response, STA distributed a letter informing members about the change.
- Discussion of 2009-10 calendar

Bargaining -Mike Foley, Chief Negotiator

- Survey given to members
- Everyone has had the opportunity to complete the surveys and provide specific thoughts for contract changes.
- Mike Foley will meet with teachers, TAs and nurses regarding the process if desired.
- Discussion of survey responses.

Motion to adjourn made by Katie LeRoy. Seconded by Mary Beth Flatley. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

STA Executive Board Meeting Minutes February 3, 2009

Members Present: Alisha Couse, President; Kelly Healy, 1st vice President; Peter Rings, 2nd vice President; Carol Carelli, Treasurer; Mary Beth Flatley, Treasurer; Chris Bailey, Stacy Barron, Kathy Cathell, Deborah D'Arcangelis, Mike Di Cocco, Michael Foley, Retiree Rep and Chief Negotiator; Sue Hennessy, Joann Lasky, Katie LeRoy, Kevin Meachem, Carol Russell, Carol Walker. Absent: Lori Bittner, Jeff VanHoesen.

- The meeting was called to order at 3:51 P.M.
- Motion to accept the minutes of the January 6, 2009 meeting was made by Kathy Cathell. Seconded by Joann Lasky. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - Mary Beth Flatley

- Handed out budget as of 2/2/2009

Secretary's Report - Carol Carelli

- Cards sent to Diane Babin, Joe Caldara, Alisha Couse, Mike DiCocco, Mikel-Ann Farina, Sue Foggo

1st Vice President's Report - Kelly Healy

- The TAs and nurses will be meeting with Kelly and Mike Foley to discuss negotiations and their concerns.
- APPR - Not all the principals are following the process - not having pre/post conferences for Option 1 - The pre-conference is part of the negotiated APPR process and is intended to be part of all evaluations. The Pre-observation form is for the benefit of the teachers. Without a pre-conference, there are things the administrator would not necessarily know about what you are doing within your classroom and outside of your classroom. The Post-observation form is for discussion after the observation. Discussion of concerns of teachers who have not had pre and/or post observation meetings in the HS. Alisha has addressed this with Valerie.
- IDEA Grant Chairperson Position - We still do not have resolution on the stipend for the coordinator. The contract states that the stipend for the IDEA Grant chairperson is 6% of yearly allocation. This should be taken out of the same fund as for other "stipend" positions, but the district feels it should be taken out of the allocation, which makes the total available for teachers lower. Any money not used goes back into the General Fund. Alisha continues to address this with Valerie.

2nd Vice President Report - Peter Rings

- Retirees should contact Pete if they have any questions. There will be a meeting in June for setting up their accounts for unused sick days.

President's Report - Alisha Couse

- District Budget Presentation - Elementary was rescheduled. Carol shared information regarding Teacher Retirement System contributions - the amount that NYSTRS suggests budgeting for 2009-10 is actually LOWER this year (6.19 % for 2009-10 vs. 7.63 % for 08-09 and 8.73 % for 07-08).

STA Executive Board Meeting Minutes, continued February 3, 2009

- Discussion of fund balance and unreserved fund balance.
- Seniority List - Distributed Seniority list to building reps. Members can see any building rep to check their placement on the list. If there are any discrepancies or questions about the list, please let Alisha know and she will share this information with Valerie. Ultimately, the district develops and maintains the seniority list.
- Thermometers - will be issued to teachers to assist the district in tracking the temperature of the rooms. This is optional.
- STA Brochures - Updated brochure will be distributed to all members
- Reimbursement for Grade level meetings in other buildings - Coordinators can submit reimbursement for mileage. Teachers cannot submit for meetings in other buildings.
- Shared Decision Making - STA is waiting to hear about options for an outside consultant who will be hired by the district to facilitate the process. The current Building Cabinets are principal advisory groups, NOT Shared Decision Building Planning Teams. These cabinets were not formed under the process established by the state so they cannot be considered to be Shared Decision-Making teams.
- 2009-10 District Calendar - Valerie and Alisha are still negotiating this so it is not ready for our vote. The calendar is very tight this year due to a late Labor Day. The Executive Board has given Alisha a clear directive not to start before Labor Day.
- Building STA Meetings - Suggested to building representatives that reminders about building STA meetings be distributed with an approximate meeting time to help members plan ahead and be able to stay for such meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to keep members informed and to give members an opportunity to bring concerns before the group.

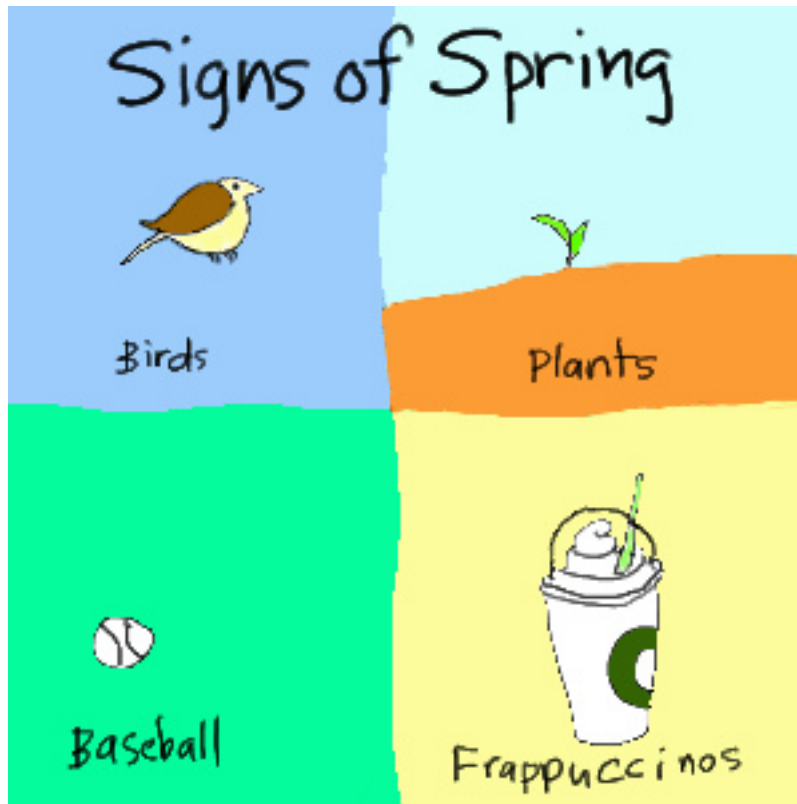
Chief Negotiator-Michael Foley

- Discussion of bargaining process so far.
- Waiting until the effects of the "stimulus" package are known. It is difficult to bargain using "guesses" rather than facts.
- Will continue discussion at March meeting

Officer Position Responsibilities - An organizational chart was distributed with the recommendation to eliminate the Executive Vice President Position. Responsibilities for each position were outlined in the organizational chart. We will revisit this at the March meeting for further discussion and voting. If the position is eliminated, members will be notified of a constitutional amendment in the STATIC which will be voted on at the annual business meeting in June.

Motion to adjourn was made by Katie LeRoy. Seconded by Kevin Meachem. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Kooky Cartoon



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.

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Kelly Healy

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Vice Presidents:

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Treasurer:
Political Action:

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Peter Rings
Carol Carelli
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Lori DeMeo
Joanne Lasky

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