

**New Haven Teachers Association/CTA/NEA  
Representative Council Meeting  
Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- I. Call to Order** Charmaine Kawaguchi, president  
4:02 pm
- II. Additions to the Agenda**
- *Motion:* Adopt the Agenda. Moved: Jen Nemecek, seconded: Penny Johnson, all in favor.
- III. Approval of the Minutes** Jennifer Carini
- *Motion:* Approve the Minutes of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Corrections: counselor issues will be clarified further today. Moved: Jen Nemecek, seconded: Paul Stickland, all in favor.
- IV. NHTA Executive Director**
- Sam is now retired. Nicole Love is the new Executive Director; she is the staff person in Oakland. CTA did not fix the issues with their staff; Ronnie has also retired along with Sam and Marilyn. Nicole is an experienced staff person. Please attend the R&R dinner to honor Sam, along with all the others.
- V. Information/Action Items** Charmaine Kawaguchi
- State Budget Initiatives and the May 19<sup>th</sup> election  
Polling says, as of last week, the propositions are losing 49% – 40%, except 1F. The population seems to believe that voting “no” will punish our governor and legislators. Right now we have to get the message across, we are the only bog group besides the firefighters who are backing this. We only have 13 days. There will be a very low voter turnout. We just need to get our “yes” voters out to the polls. Next Wednesday, on Day of the Teacher, pass out leaflets and stickers. If CSR goes away at the state, there would be 60 layoffs in this district. There are 2000 postcards available. Let Charmaine know how many you would like for your own friends and family.
  - May 19<sup>th</sup> Phone Banking – we are doing phone banking here tonight. There are two more days scheduled, one will be with pizza and one with the chocolate fountain. Next week, we will do phone banking from 4 – 6pm here on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The next week, we will do it on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- VI. School Reports**
- AE: concerns about IST in light of new things they are trying to do, they are hoping it can help instruction rather than hearing information 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hand, shorter preps because of testing, revolving door at administration level, 7 pillars from the district office (tests whether what we are doing is actually working), changed the 85% proficiency number that now our goal is that all children work at grade level, need more direct contact about new math adoption. Perhaps everyone could be trained by the trainer for the math, in a similar way as people were trained for Writer’s Workshop.
- EAS: Their principal is staying for next year. They had a literacy coordinator hired without advertising the position, so now the hiring has been taken back. It will now be posted, and the teacher has been told they don’t have the position. It is still on their job-posting thing that Eastin is a Writing Workshop mandatory school, which is not true according to what Kari has said.
- EM: nothing
- HVC: The school climate has not improved despite multiple attempts to communicate with administration. Their principal continues to harass certain teachers. The issues are huge.
- KIT: They are wondering when the kinder bathrooms are being done.
- PIO: Joanne announced that she is here until June 2010.

SEA: Questions about literacy coaches – there is a teacher with a lot of experience that was looked over for another for a new teacher. There should be a discussion with their principal about why this decision was made. Question about Searles closing – there is a rumor that it would be Hillview or Searles that closes if another elementary schools. Because of full day kinder, they cannot close a school right now. However, if May 19<sup>th</sup> goes badly and CSR is discontinued by the State then there will be 60 empty classrooms and a school could logistically be closed. IST asked teachers to rank people / what should be cut. It is inappropriate for us to decide this, it is not our job.

AMS: all is good

CCMS: moving meeting tomorrow, optional Writers Workshop training, we want to make sure we can get into CCMS to get into the building before the training to set up our classrooms. We think the \$400 stipend is insulting. There is a make-up during work hours to complete the training. Middle school developer has to be cell and excel trained – but no one has been trained – and would have to be trained in writer’s workshop and no middle school teacher has been trained in it – it is unclear what this position is about?

LOG: SBDM has proposed to alter the schedule for next year; it will require 80% of the members to vote on it, the voting logistics will be difficult. It would add 5 instructional minutes to the day, thus giving more time for collaboration. There are issues regarding Saturday school remediation classes. It is being funded with summer school money. There are problems that counselors have found for seniors with Zangle and transcripts. This is still a concern – the counselors don’t know how these Saturday intervention classes are working and how they will be able to apply to the transcripts. Charmaine will contact Nancy George to ask questions about this. Their new principal is leaving, and the revolving administration is a problem at Logan.

CCHS: not here

CAB: not here

## VII. Officer Reports

- A. President Charmaine Kawaguchi
1. Grievances and arbitrations - Arbitration on discrimination scheduled for 5/28 other arbitrations in the fall.
  2. Retiree Trust Fund Update – As of 3/31 \$2.67 million
  3. School Board/Community Outreach – ongoing
  4. Retirement and Recognition dinner – May 29<sup>th</sup> - please attend
  5. Day of the Teacher – May 13<sup>th</sup> - activities above
  6. Website review – skip until next month

B. Vice-President

Pace Lash

C. Treasurer

Jeff Ustick

Jeff presented the 2009 -2010 budget draft as well as rationale for increases or decreases.

Jeff does not suggest a dues increase for the NHTA dues for 2009-2010. CTA and NEA will likely increase their dues amounts. Please post the proposed 2009-2010 NHTA budget at your school sites. If members have questions about the budget, please ask them to contact Jeff.

## VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Contract Tidbit Rodana Breen
- Buy-back day is still on, we will know more after 5/19. Collaboration committee – it is developed, they haven’t met yet but will by the end of the school year.
- B. Elections David Cole
- There is an election happening for Minority-at-large that is happening right now, it will end tomorrow. People have been asked to vote today during the meeting. Have your people come to the NHTA office to vote tomorrow.

Our local election process has started. Everyone has a candidate form in their packet, plus a timeline. Applications can be downloaded from [newhaventia.org](http://newhaventia.org).

C. Special Education Assessment Overview

Colleen Conley

Special education is a last resort for children who have actual disabilities, not just kids needing extra help. Interventions need to have been tried before they can qualify. The psychologist has to find a processing delay, and then there has to be an academic discrepancy for the child to qualify. Attendance, environmental factors, and lack of instruction also have to be ruled out. Not all students with behavior problems are special education students. Students will go to the resource program for a while when they first qualify. It is very important to have interventions in place. Interventions are something that is above and beyond what you are giving to the rest of the students in your classroom. There needs to be multiple conversations between the regular teacher and the parent so the parent knows what is going on.

**XI. Announcements**

**XII. Adjournment**

Respectfully,

Jennifer Carini  
NHTA Secretary