



**MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FRIDAY/SATURDAY MARCH 30,31, 2007**

The MTA Board met recently in Needham. Selected highlights of the several dozen items on the agenda which may be of interest to MCCC members follow.

Strategic Direction Initiative Update and Training

Richard Sanders, MTA Director of Affiliate Services and George Luse, MTA Regional Services Consultant, updated the Board on the Strategic Direction Initiative they are leading on behalf of the Board. This program has as goals member-driven, strategically minded, organized, and purposeful locals.

The Board heard that there have been a number of regional training sessions that have been well attended and seem quite successful. (The MCCC participated in this program in January). The Board also took one hour and responded to a set of questions prepared by Richard and George.

PHENOM - attachment

The Board heard an excellent presentation by Dan Clawson of UMass/Amherst, on PHENOM, the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts (<http://www.phenomonline.org/>). MCCC members know about this new organization and many participated in its March initiative at the state house, and will participate at its April 25 event, again at the state house (that's our employer). The MCCC is actively involved in the PHENOM campaign to obtain student, faculty and others, signatures supporting legislation needed by public higher education. Many of the Board members offered to help get signatures and drum up support.

Presentation on proposed CTQ Survey of Educators on Classroom Teacher Working Conditions

The Board heard an excellent (we don't use that word lightly, these were both very good) presentation on a possible survey of classroom teacher working conditions, by Beverly Miyares, Consultant for the MTA Center for Educational Quality and Professional Development and Paul Phillips, MTA Executive Committee member for Region D. This survey was used in North Carolina, where the legislature actually enacted positive legislation based on the results. For example, the morale and learning climate at a school must be considered in evaluating a school principal! For example, every teacher at every school must have an unencumbered planning period during the workday! Later in the meeting, the Board voted to support an implementation of this study in Massachusetts.

Tragedy in Williamstown

President Wass reported that the Purple Pub in Williamstown burned down. If this means nothing to you, you need to undergo professional development at the MTA summer leadership conference in August!

Budget

The Board voted to support a very modest \$9 MTA dues increase. Two thirds of this money is earmarked for the pension fund and other unavoidable expenses.

The Board also voted to sustain the Public Relations/Organizing Campaign budget at \$30 per member. There was a lot of discussion about lowering this amount because we finally have someone in the Governor's office who is sympathetic to, even enthusiastic about, public education from pre-school through graduate school. However, the majority of Board sentiment is that we continue to have strong legislative needs, as well as local needs important to K-12 bargaining units, that require sympathetic public support. Even in the best of times, and we are not in those, there are competing interests for support on Beacon Hill, and, to misuse a nice quote, your silence will not protect you. A continuing strong voice for public education, for support for tax policies that are needed to sustain excellent public higher education, and for support for public education educators, is needed.

The net result is a very modest recommended dues increase of \$9 for MTA dues.

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New Position Created: Affiliate Services Training and Organizing Coordinator

Contingent upon final approval in the budget the Board authorized creating this position on a three-year trial basis. This is in keeping with the Board's strategic initiative program.

Affiliate Services Report

Director Richard Sanders reported on efforts around the strategic directions program and political organizing, regional leadership training, and a staff retreat which discussed challenges in the strategic directions / organizing model envisioned by the Board. Richard reported that planning continues for 3 new extended-track programs at the summer leadership conference in Williamstown(August 5-9): Bargaining, Leader-Activist Development, and Grassroots Political Organizing.

Richard's report also updates the Board on negotiations around the state. Some bad news is that overrides to proposition 2 ½ are not doing well, but are badly needed for local funding of schools.

Legislative Report

Joanne Blum, Director of the Governmental Services Division, reported on legislation. Perhaps the single most important item she cites is the need for generating public support for the Governor's legislative funding proposals, such as closing corporate tax loopholes. (You may have seen that the Globe reported that this is being considered in eight states – unfortunately we now have a legislature with less vision than the sitting governor, the reverse of the last 16 years).

Respectfully Submitted
Phil Mahler
Sara Satham
MTA Directors for the MCCC

Attachment

PHENOMenial Day

FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

Knocking on the State House Door



April 25th

Uniting Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumnae and Community Members
Lobbying for state colleges, Community Colleges and Universities

JOIN US: IT'S YOUR FUTURE

Gardner Auditorium - State House
10am

PHENOM - Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts
<http://www.phemononline.org> or massphenom@gmail.com