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**MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**FRIDAY/SATURDAY JUNE 15,16, 2007**

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

**Training: Sexual harassment and Discrimination Prevention**

Melinda Milberg, Esq, conducted training on sexual harassment: how to recognize it, what is the law, and how to prevent it. We reviewed the MTA policy on sexual harassment in the workplace.

**Equal Opportunity**

The MTA Equal Opportunity Officer, Gerri Weathers, reviewed efforts the MTA has in place to achieve a diverse MTA workforce. She noted that the MTA staff should see about a 29% turnover in the next five years, presenting an opportunity for hiring for diversity. She noted that minorities in this country have reached 100 million in this country.

**Affiliate Services Reports**

In executive session the Board heard reports from Richard Sanders, Director of Affiliate Services, on negotiations across the state. Notably the Board heard from Paul Phillips, president of the Quincy Education Association, on the events which led to their recent strike. Paul is also a Board Director.

**Written Committee Reports**

The Board received written reports from MTA committees for 2006-2007. These included the following, which we cite to give some idea of the many ways in which MTA works throughout the year.

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| Advisory Budget Committee               | Massachusetts Child                            |
| Affiliate Services Committee            | Minority Affairs Committee                     |
| Board Negotiating Team annual Report    | NEA-RA Social Sub-Committee                    |
| Bylaws and Rules Committee              | New Teacher Committee                          |
| Candidate Recommendation Committee      | Professional Development Committee             |
| Credentials and Ballot Committee        | Committee on Professional Ethics               |
| Electoral Review Committee              | Public Relations/Organizing Campaign Committee |
| Environmental Health & Safety Committee | Resolutions Committee                          |
| Equal Opportunity Council               | Retired Members Committee                      |
| ESP (Educational Support Committee)     | Employee Pension Plan                          |
| Government Relations Committee          | Statewide Membership Campaign                  |
| Human Relations Committee               | Student Membership Committee                   |
| Large Locals Task Force                 | Summer Conference Planning Team                |

**Financial Reports and Related Matters**

Kathy Conway, Director of Finance and Accounting, reported on finances to date. Due to above-predicted membership numbers and positive results on investments, spending versus income is better than budgeted. The Board voted to move forward with a budgeted \$1.2M in building repairs and improvements to the MTA headquarters in Boston.

**Discussion about A Collaborative Education Strategy for Massachusetts**

This is a document being created by the Massachusetts High Technology Council that recommends such things as pilot schools, extended school day, differentiated compensation (for performance), math and science teacher development centers, recruitment and retention of math and science teachers. With some two dozen members, there is no community



college representative. The Board had much to recommend to Anne Wass, who sits on the “Leadership Team” for this proposal.

**The Readiness Project**

This is an initiative document from Governor Patrick, subtitled “From Cradle to Career – *Education as our Competitive Edge*”. It points out that only 80% of those who entered as (high school) freshmen in the class of 2006 graduated in four years, and while this surpasses the national average, there is still an achievement gap among minorities. Among other things he proposes universal public education pre-K through two years of community college or education in the professional trades, extended school day and year, higher education investment. The “Readiness Project” will be “a group of educators, legislators, business leaders, and community leaders who will work through some fundamental and systemic challenges that face public education in Massachusetts”.

**Ethics and Other Standards**

The Board received several proposed, draft, policies which are modeled after NEA documents. These are on “Financial & Operational Standards”, a Whistleblower Policy for MTA Officials, and one for Employees of the MTA, a Conflict of Interest Policy for Officials and one for Employees. These may be of help to the MCCC since our last audit stated the need for policies in these areas – in fact everyone is reacting to the same federal legislation which reacted to the Enron and other debacles.

Respectfully Submitted  
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