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Report to MCCC Chapter Leaders

From Phil Mahler, Tom Parsons, MCCC Representatives on the
MTA Board of Directors

MTA Board Meeting – December 3,4, 2004

The MTA Board of Directors met on Friday evening December 3, and Saturday December 4, in Natick. What follows are items of most interest to MCCC members.

FRIDAY EVENING

- Distribution and discussion of financial reports
- Annual PRIM Board Report (K-12 Pension Fund)
- K-12 presentation of school accountability as it relates to state and federal requirements*.
- K-12 presentation on the Center for Quality and Professional Development
- Rest of the evening was mostly in executive session
- In summary, most of Friday night was spent on a K-12 focus, except for the distribution of the summary results of the MTA survey on budget priorities for the coming fiscal year. Political Action and the PR campaign placed high on the lists of chapter presidents, MTA Board and MTA staff. A constant dues level placed high on the list of chapter presidents.

* great **presentation on school accountability** through the federal “No Child Left Behind” program and the commonwealth’s MCAS program, by Kathie Skinner and Beverly Miyares, Center for Educational Quality and Professional Development. They noted that the state’s program is aligning itself more and more with the federal one. They also noted that when a report is done on a subperforming program, questions like “are there enough textbooks” is never asked.

SATURDAY

- The Board voted to **lift the MTA boycott on California table grapes**, consistent with previous actions of the United Farm Workers and the NEA.
- The Board voted to sunset the Small and Mid-size Local Project Committee.
- The Board adopted criteria for a statewide rally after long discussion with amendments.

The Division of Governance presented a requested **cost analysis of the MTA retired membership program**. The bottom line is that MTA retired member dues are \$20 per year, but the MTA cost to service retirees is an additional \$54 per year.

Preliminary planning for the **summer conference** was presented. The deadline for receipt of workshop proposals is Friday, January 14, 2005.

It was reported that **Option C for retirees** is much improved after December 24, 2004. See the MTA web site.

Jo Blum, head of MTA Lobbying, gave a **legislative report**. She stated that all 35 bills requested to be filed, by the Board, were filed and have sponsors. She also noted that the Senate Task Force on Public Higher Education is holding hearings, and the MTA requested that key MTA leaders testify. (MCCC President Rick Doud will testify for the MCCC.)

It is expected that the contract funding bill, which includes MCCC 02-03 points, will pass early in the new legislative term, which begins January 5.



Jo, and later MCCC Executive Director Ed Sullivan, recounted some of the work done in the next election. The MTA was a large presence, and its successful support of those candidates threatened by Romney's failed program to unseat targeted persons, and increase the Republican presence in the legislature, was especially noted.

Ed Sullivan stated that the House Speaker and Senate President have indicated to him they are committed to bringing up the **contract funding bill** as one of the first items when the legislature reconvenes.

There was a lot of discussion at the Board around a **statewide rally** this spring, and this remains a possibility.

New Business Items:

- No. 1 To request that the Government Relations Committee late-file an Indoor Air Quality Bill designed to improve environmental conditions in public buildings. It should..... **Passed**
- No. 2 That the MTA Board of Directors endorse the candidacy of Robert Brousseau for re-election to the Pension Reserve Investment Trust Fund. In addition, the endorsement will be published in the appropriate MTA publications. **Passed**
- No.3 MTA will develop an organizational plan to meet the criteria for scheduling a statewide rally. **Failed**

The meeting was over by lunch time. First time in six years this has happened for the Sat. meeting!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your MTA Board members, Phil Mahler and Tom Parsons.

Sincerely submitted on behalf of the MTA Board members,

Tom Parsons



**Enjoy the day and
Enjoy the holidays!**

