

COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

AGENDA

November 20, 2008

**** See Item VIII**

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I. Single Carrier Decision

- a) District ordered to return to multiple carriers
- b) Not ordered to rehire teachers sacrificed by Superintendent "You can keep your jobs if you get BTF to drop single carrier grievance."
- c) Papers filed to force District to return to multiple carriers or negotiate change.

II. Negotiations -

- a) Mediator calls for informational meeting of Chief negotiators for BTF and Board on December 9th.
- b) Will resume actual negotiations when District agrees to bring back teachers used as sacrificial lambs.
- c) Other major issues:
 - 1) Teachers must be placed on correct step with back pay to July, 2007 when freeze was lifted.
 - 2) Additional raises on salary schedule.
 - 3) No payment for health care.
 - 4) Mileage
 - 5) There are, of course, many other important issues.

III. Step Increase Court Case

- a) The unions won in State Supreme Court. The court ruled that once the freeze is lifted employees go to the step on which they belong.
- b) Control Board, City and Board appealed.
- c) Our legal briefs will be filed this week with the Appellate Court in Rochester.
- d) Oral argument scheduled by court for February 2009.
- e) If the District won't place us on step through negotiations, we will be forced to continue to fight them in court. We lost enough during the wage freeze.

O-V-E-R >>>

IV. Elections – BTF very successful

- a) Supported both GOP and Democratic candidates
- b) Will help us in budget battle.

V. State Budget -

- a) Senate and Assembly Republicans and most Buffalo Democrats continue to pledge no mid-year education cuts. Thank you, Dale Volker and Antoine Thompson who led the effort in the Senate and to our endorsed candidates in the Assembly for staying strong.
- b) Next year will be a battle –
 - 1) BTF and NYSUT will use the courts to block cuts in education aid to poor school districts by using the CFE (equity case) that resulted in substantial increases for districts. State found to have violated NYS Constitution regarding education funding.
 - 2) BTF, NYSUT and other organizations will advocate for a return to the tax structure of 10 years ago. Rescind the tax breaks for \$500,000⁺ earners. Should yield \$2 – \$7 billion.
 - 3) Will join with other organizations to fight cuts to education.
 - 4) Governor’s budget in December will be the usual doomsday scenario. State budget must be approved by April 1.

VI. Teacher/Student Oppression – Tests – Regimentation – Paperwork, etc.

- a) BTF in contact with other unions to develop a strategy to deal with
- b) BTF has reached out to a researcher to see if they will do a study
re: High States Testing in Buffalo and New York State.

VII. Review 2009-2010 Proposed Calendar

VIII. Window Period ** - Mary O’Shei, Mgr. BPS Benefits Dep’t., and representatives from BC/BS are available in the foyer to provide information.

Health care changes and Flexible Spending Plan deadline for enrolling is December 1st.

IX. Other Late Items

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

XII. Adjournment