

New York State Retired School Administrators and Supervisors

Meeting of the Executive Board – December 16, 2015

CAS Offices – Hauppauge, NY

Present: Ed Bellomo, Vince Deland, Gene Goldwasser, Pat Galaskas, Jeff Hollander, Elliott Kigner, Corine Lipset-Huberman, David Long, Marty Mandelker, Stu Mortman, Stan Opas, George Pincus, Joe Quinn, and John Wallace

1.0 Welcome: Gene Goldwasser, President.

2.0 Minutes: The minutes of the September 30, 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted Moved by Corine Lipset-Huberman, seconded by David Long.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: Account balances were reported as follows:

Share checking - \$5,265.17 (as of Dec. 16, 2015)

Savings - \$3.20

Money Market - \$1,066.66

Certificate of Deposit - \$4,640.61

Total = \$10,975.64

Anticipated expenses total \$1,646.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was moved by David Long, seconded by Ed Bellomo, and passed by acclamation.

4.0 Announcements: Gene noted that Francesca Ciolino-Volano and Ken Forman sent regrets and would not be able to participate in this meeting.

There was unanimous agreement supporting our annual gift to Demetria in the amount of \$150.

5.0 Correspondence: E-mails were received from Beth Dimino and William DeVita.

6.0 Committee Reports

6.1 Education: Marty Mandelker commented on the recently reported changes in federal legislation. No Child Left Behind will now be called ESSA [Every Student Succeeds at]. Changes will shift more authority regarding testing and curriculum content to the states.

6.2 Legislation – Stu Mortman discussed concerns regarding Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage including lack of ability to negotiate prices, recent increases in off patent drug costs, restrictions on importing of prescription drugs from Canada, doctors' links to drug companies (e.g. making

presentations to other physicians), and proposals from Democratic presidential candidates to cap out-of-pocket drug costs for individuals.

- 6.3 Membership:** Dues are now \$25 for regular annual membership and \$125 for new life members. In 2015 membership decreased by 20 from 2014 levels. Possible reasons for decreasing membership numbers were discussed. It was noted that some retired educators (e.g. former SANYS members) may be unaware of our organization and other former educators may no longer have interest in the field. Suggestions included using our newsletter to current members (a) to stress the need for engagement as a responsibility to society to educate future generations, (b) to ask current members to pass the newsletter on to a friend, and (c) to include links to our website. Those who know one of the 76 past members who have not renewed were asked to make a personal contact to encourage membership renewal.
- 6.4 .Newsletter:** The Quarterly Query for the next issue will ask for opinions about charter schools in relation to their impact on public education. Executive Committee members were asked to respond. There was agreement that the January issue of the newsletter should be sent out as an e-mail blast.
- 6.5 Publicity:** no report.

7.0 Old Business

- 7.1 Focus Group** – wording of criteria for support of candidates was refined.
- 7.2 Common Core and No Child Left Behind Developments** – A letter from Beth Dimino reacting to the recommendations of the Governor’s Common Core Task Force will be included in the next issue of our newsletter. On the federal level, more authority over standards and assessment are to be returned to the states (see Education Committee report).

8.0 New Business

- 8.1 Winter 2016 Focus Group** – A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office to develop questions to screen candidates. This will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter.
- 8.2 Possible NYSRSAS concerns for 2016 - Topics** discussed included: testing and appropriate use of test results, charter schools, school safety/security, accountability, and Medicare concerns (drug coverage, etc.).

9.0 The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on a motion by David Long, seconded by Elliot Kigner and passed by acclamation.

10.0 Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the CAS office at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Galaskas