**RRTA Meeting**

**December 6, 2018**

**Attendance:**  R. Allen, D. Altobelli, Z. Artson-Crichlow, K. Barkley, M. Barnum, C. Bonsignore-Kitchen, P. Brody, B. Buckingham, C. Dean, K. Evans,K. Fager, W. Humphrey, M. Jenkins-Cox, E. Robinson, K. Schultz, G. Shakes, S. Silvio, D. Sullivan, B. Swan, D. Voellinger, M. Zimmer

**Absent:** A. Johnson, M. Ferenchak, K. Huey, J. Ivanick, A. Johnson, B. Jones, M. Keating, F. Macek, L. Rapkin, A. Smith, G. Sweeney, F. Valente, Y. Wooten

**Also in attendance**: J. Kraus, S. Raymond, J. Zuniga

The meeting was called to order at 10:07.

1. A moment of silence was observed for teachers who have passed away in the past month: Josephine Buchan Dewey, Ricahrd E. LaValley (RRTA), and Margaret Krizan (RRTA). A $25 donation is made to Books for Kids in memory of any RRTA member.

2. The November 1, 2018 minutes were approved as written.

3. **Vote Cope** — Dave Altobelli read a quote, “Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree years ago.” Vote Cope had done the work to benefit you. NYSUT reported that they lost 400 members statewide as a result of Janus. The union says that members will not have to resign yearly to me a union member. November elections flipped 3 NYS legislative seats and there are 8 more democrats in the NYS Senate.

NYSUT issues for this year are APPR k -12; higher education issues; and redistricting for the 2020 elections.

**Holiday Party** — Dave also reported that he is trying to contact Ibero for the canned goods and gently used winter wear, but they haven’t returned his calls. He said that if they do not respond, he will look for another charity to donate the goods people bring, such as Demetrius House.

5. **Dress A Girl/Savvy Sewers** — At the last meeting, Gaya reported that they made 12 dolls, 20 dresses and prepared for the Holiday Party. They sent dresses to Peru and will send some to Haiti when a member of the group travels there.

6. **Books for Kids** — The group is scheduled to go to Wilson Foundations, Monday, December 10 at 9 am. We visited 2 classes at School 7 in November and will be going to School 44 in January and School 9 in February. Mary Barnum reported that the group is financially in good standing.

7. **Holiday Party** — Mary Barnum reported that there are 100 people attending the Holiday Party on December 12 at the Brook House. Dress A Girl will have their fundraiser at the luncheon.

8. **Medicare Premiums** — Charlie Dean shared the new MAGI/IRMAA charts for 2019. (Modified Adjusted Gross Income and Income Related Monthly Adjusted Amount). He also included the information about mandatory withdrawal from IRA and 403b annuities at 70 1/2 years of age. Contact him with any questions.

9. **Calendar** — Mary Barnum said that she changed the dates for the January newspaper so that the information would be timely for the deadline dates for nominations of RTA officers which is February 8. The newspaper will be proofread January 2 and sent out January 16.

10. **Newspaper** — Mary Barnum shared what would be included in the January issue: dues payers list (679 members presently); articles from Dress a Girl; book club; RTA officer election; and Distinguished Educator’s report from A. Urbanski. Cathy Fager is working on Shaw/Niagara on the Lake for the April issue which will be for the summer.

11. There was a discussion of the **proposed amendment** at the RTA rep meeting at which there will be a vote at the December meeting of combining the treasurer and secretary positions. The letter that went out also talked about replacing negligent officers except the office of the president. When asked why the presidency was excluded in the language Mary Barnum said that it was discussed in another section of the constitution.

12. **Saturday, February 9, is the annual NYSUT/Monroe County Legislative Forum** at 8 am. RTA always has a good showing to listen to the NYS legislators. RTA pays for the tickets of those wanting to attend. Contract Mary Barnum to reserve a space.

13. **December 15** the Action Committee is packing boxes for the holiday baskets donated to need families in each school (2 per school). They need volunteers to come and help pack.

14. Adam Urbanski attended the meeting and spoke about the unstable period while the district is searching for a new superintendent, the Board is arguing amongst themselves, and the Commissioner is focusing on the district since the Distinguished Educator’s report. He said that this is a contract year and may be calling on retired teachers to help support their issues.

He also said that the Board is looking to ban all suspensions, removing metal detectors from secondary schools which will cause chaos in schools and racial polarization. If they do not stop their bickering and continuing to ignore the Distinguished Educator’s Report the district may be taken over. Cuomo has come out in favor of mayoral control and the Commissioner can call for a district receivership. If this occurs, the RTA contract may become null and void, which effects retirees and their health benefits. We need to stay unified and strong.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16.

Mary Zimmer

RRTA Secretary