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Report

MTA Board Meeting April 2 & 3, 2004 Highlights

Public Relations Poll Interesting results (in executive session) to future target the PR advertising campaign. Two radio ads currently playing on the \$250 million cut in K-12. One ad for Higher Ed. and one ad for ESP are in progress.

Personnel Changes Arline Isaacson, Higher Ed. Lobbyist, is on unpaid leave. Arthur Pippo will fill the position during this period of time. Stan Smith will take on Arthur's consultant functions.

Elections "Sort of" good news. Cathy Boudreau (from the MCCC) is running unopposed for election to MTA President. HOWEVER, I have heard that another candidate will surface at MTA Annual Meeting. Any elected delegate from your college should make every effort to attend and vote at the Saturday morning session. Polls open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 11:00 a.m. sharp on May 22, 2004.

MTA Proposed Budget for 2004-2004 The MTA Board passed a \$15 dues increase for the forthcoming year. In the current fiscal year a number of positions were not filled, to live within revenues. The primary purpose of the dues increase will be to fill these positions. For example, Pricilla Lyons is currently performing the functions of Director of Higher Ed. and Regional Office Manager. The legal department is also running one person short. Most inflationary increases were met by cutting existing accounts to levels very close to current usage. The Higher Ed. Programs and Higher Ed. Research accounts were cut on this basis. After a variety of motions, the 4.36% increased budget was passed.

PR Campaign There was extended debate on again asking for \$30 for the campaign. A motion to change the campaign to PR/Organizing was passed by the board. I personally felt \$30 was too little given the governor's attacks on the pension, health coverage, and wage increases in higher ed., but could not get enough support to increase the campaign.

NEA Dues For information purposes, the NEA dues will increase by \$3, to \$137, for the forthcoming fiscal year.

Statewide Rally The vote of delegates to the 2003 MTA was reported out as 393 in favor of postponement and 162 not in favor of postponement. The funds are placed in restricted reserves in case there is a rally at a later date.

Please feel free to contact any of the Board of Directors, if you have any questions on the reported issues.

Respectfully Submitted for the Directors,

Tom Parsons Director
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