



MTA Board of Directors Meeting  
Highlights  
Sunday, August 7, 2005

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This meeting was held in Williamstown at the start of the MTA's Summer Leadership Conference. Sara Satham, Academic Counselor at Bunker Hill, has replaced Tom Parsons as an MCCC Director. Phil Mahler, Professor of Mathematics at Middlesex, continues for another year.

Some selected highlights of the meeting which may be of interest to MCCC members follow.

- The board was queried about budget priorities for next year. Input will also be solicited from affiliate presidents.
- A report of a task force on the retired member "region" was received. It has recommendations which put some constraints on how large this region should grow in terms of governance. It also proposes significant dues increases, to at least enough to cover the cost of servicing these members in the future. The task force, chaired by a retired member and with other retired representation, adopted the position that the MTA must be actively run by members who are currently actively employed in education.
- It was noted that there seems to be legislative support for taking the issue of health insurance out of the bargaining arena for K-12. Needless to say this attack on collective bargaining is, and will be, fought. Firefighters, the MFT, and others are actively in the fray as well.
- You may have seen it reported elsewhere – in Springfield, where a Romney-appointed commission is running the crisis-stricken city, management wants to get rid of step increases for teachers and go to a pure "merit" system. If your students don't perform, you don't get a raise. Good luck, especially to those working so hard in our urban schools, getting a raise, if this is forced on them. And it has been proposed in negotiations elsewhere, already.
- Steve Tocco has been reappointed Chair of the Board of Higher Education. I view that as a positive development because Mr. Tocco has been a balanced leader, who advocates for public higher education and for those who work in it.
- A motion was adopted to not buy back-to-school supplies at Walmart stores, due to their anti-labor policies. This is in support of an NEA-adopted resolution to the same effect.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Phil Mahler, MTA Board

