



Philip Mahler
Board of Directors
District 44H
978 405 2531
Treasurer@MCCC-union.org

Sara Satham
Board of Directors
District 44H
617 228 2112
SSatham@BHCC.mass.edu

MTA Board of Directors Meeting
Friday/Saturday October 14-15, 2005

The MTA Board met recently in Natick. Some selected highlights of the meeting which may be of interest to MCCC members follow.

Friday Evening

- Received preliminary auditor's report and financial statements.
- Received reports on personnel matters, and collective bargaining, including higher education.
- The situation in Springfield was discussed, again. As you may know, that city is essentially in receivership and under the control of a board made up of Romney appointees. They are ignoring past contracts and freezing wages. They are proposing a totally new contract in which raises depend almost entirely on student performance – and even student attendance rates!
- The Board also received a report on the Pension Committee, chaired by Tom Parsons, past MCCC President and current Mass Bay chapter president.

Saturday

- Considered a position paper on “merit pay” for teachers. This would support additional pay for additional work or responsibilities, but not pay based on students' test scores on standardized tests, or on subjective evaluations by administrators.
- Considered a policy on accountability for the MTA delegates to the NEA/RA – specifically, they must attend at least 75% of the (currently eight) sessions to receive the MTA stipend.
- Adopted a policy that monetary changes cannot be made to the MTA membership database after December 31 following the fiscal year. Exception: past dues owed to the MTA.
- Rescinded the policy that recognizes and supports caucuses.
- Adopted a policy on member candidacy endorsements for certain state elections, such as for the Mass Teachers Retirement Board.
- Adopted some of the recommendations of a task force on retired membership. These envision eliminating lifetime retired memberships (they create an enormous drain on the budget), permit legal representation for retired members IF there is a significant dues increase to support this, raise dues to the level of 20% of active dues, raise the ratio of delegates to members (this reduces the number of delegates that would currently occur if the retired membership grows more, which it is expected to), eliminate the eligibility of a retired member for president and vice president, clarify that retirees are not represented on the Executive Committee (they are on the Board of Directors), and consider forming a separate Retired Members Organization. Most proposed changes, which produced heated discussion, require bylaw changes at the delegate assembly in May.

Respectfully Submitted
Phil Mahler, MTA Board

