



New Business Items & Bylaw Amendments

Nearly 800 delegates from across the state debated the important business of the Association. Here are the results:

Bylaw Amendments

Bylaw Amendment 1: To expand the MSTA Board of Directors members-at-large from eight to ten members.

WAS NOT ADOPTED

Bylaw Amendment 2: To change the name of the organization from the Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA) to the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA).

ADOPTED

New Business Items

NBI 08-01

Dropouts

PASSED

MSTA will work with its local affiliates and MSDE to ensure that the state wide standards for reporting student dropouts are consistently used throughout the state.

Rationale: It is very unclear that we are getting the same information from each county.

Submitted by: Mavis Ellis, Chair, MSTA Human and Civil Rights Committee

Seconded by: Julia Hinton Van Hook, TABCO

Strategic Objective #3 Public Agenda

Cost: Personnel

NBI 08-02

Pension Enhancement Study Task Force

PASSED

The Maryland State Teachers Association will convene a task force to study and make specific recommendations for improvements to state pension and retirement system benefits that are below the national average. The task force will report back to the MSTA Board of Directors and the 2009 MSTA Representative Assembly.

Rationale: Despite improvements enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2006, retirement pensions for many teachers with substantial years of experience are still well below the national average. The 2006 legislation did not provide any improvements for teachers in the old retirement system.

Delegate Galen Clagett (Frederick County) has asked to be kept informed on how the 2006 legislation has impacted teachers and what further changes need to be considered.

Submitted by: John Jurchak, FCTA

Seconded by: Gary Brennan, FCTA

Strategic Objective #2 Member Well Being

Cost: \$2,000

NBI 08-03

ESP Concerns Work Group

PASSED

MSTA will convene a workgroup consisting of, but not limited to, educational support professionals, with specific expertise and expectations for enhancing services and programs to ESP members. The workgroup will produce and compile into a formal document findings on issues that may include, but not be restricted to, Association leave for training, ESP Day/Professional Development, collective bargaining, membership recruitment and affiliate rep training. This document will be presented to the MSTA Board of Directors for consideration during the FY 11-FY 12 budget development process.

Rationale: There exists a great deal of membership growth available from ESP's throughout the state. ESP locals take on tough challenges with communication, funding, recruiting, and retaining their members which can be solved easier with a statewide meeting of the minds of ESP leaders. There is no need for each ESP Local to be on an island having to reinvent the wheel on their own.

Submitted by: Steve Brako, FASSE

Seconded by: Karen Blackwood, FASSE

Strategic Objective #2 Member Well Being

Cost: \$2,000

NBI 08-04

Modular Class Rooms Task Force

PASSED

MSTA will assist locals in ensuring that portable modular classrooms meet state and county building codes and guidelines, and assist locals in creating new portable modular classroom building codes and guidelines that may include but not be limited to: a ceiling on the number of portable modular classrooms per school site based on student population of the school; a list of mandatory accommodations needed in each portable modular, e.g. water cooler, handicap accessibility, a roofed walkway to the main building.

Rationale: Due to the ever increasing school populations, schools continue to place portable modular classrooms on school sites to accommodate the population. Many of these portable modular classrooms are placed behind school buildings, not attached to the main building, and have no running water. Students must walk outside in the elements in order to use the bathroom, switch classes, and get water. This creates many safety issues, as well as concerns about the amount of class time students miss going in and out of the building. If our students are to come first and if students are to receive an equal education, then we must make sure that our students are comfortable and safe. This New Business Item will provide support from MSTA to any local looking to improve conditions of their county's portable modular classrooms. It has been often

said that people don't care what you know until they know that you care. Let's show the students that we do care about their physical needs as well as their education needs.

Submitted by: Blair Todd, PGCEA Board Member

Seconded by: Yvonne Baicich, PGCEA

Strategic Objective #2 Member Well Being

Cost: Personnel

NBI 08-05

Childhood Obesity Prevention

PASSED

The MSTA will disseminate the recommendations of the 2004 Institute of Medicine scientific study of childhood obesity, by using the *ActionLine*, its online sources, as well as communication with local associations. The MSTA will assist local associations to work with their Boards of Education to adopt as many of the study's recommendations as possible.

Rationale: The NEA RA adopted an NBI which has the NEA pushing for the national recommendations of the Childhood Obesity study. This NBI will extend that work so that the MSTA will work for the state and local recommendations. These are the minimum steps which need to be taken so that we can begin to address this national problem which has been ranked as one of the most critical public health threats of the 21st century.

Submitted by: Yvonne N. Baicich, PGCEA

Seconded by: Terry Borneman, CCEA

Strategic Objective #3 Public Agenda

Cost: Personnel

NBI 08-06

Mental Health Booth

PASSED

MSTA will include a booth at its health fair dealing with mental health issues and services.

Rationale: MSTA should be providing its members with potentially life extending information about mental health issues and stigma.

Submitted by: Evan West, ACTA

Seconded by: Bill Fisher, EACC

Strategic Objective #1 School Quality

Cost: Personnel

NBI 08-07

Mental Health Parity

PASSED

MSTA will research those groups advocating Mental Health Parity and make available to its members through its existing publications information regarding Mental Health Parity and how to advocate for it.

Rationale: The differences and disparities between physical and mental health benefits are unfair and cost our members and the public in general years of their lives.

Submitted by: Evan West, ACTA

Seconded by: Bill Fisher, EACC

Strategic Objective #2 Member Well Being

Strategic Objective #3 Public Agenda
Cost: Personnel

NBI 08-08

State Referendum Position Procedure

RULED OUT OF ORDER

MSTA Board shall bring Maryland state referendum ballot questions to the membership or an R.A. for the establishment of an MSTA position. A vote shall be taken and members shall be offered the option of voting for, against, or no position on referendum questions.

Rationale: The views of our membership on ballot initiatives must guide our organization's public position.

Submitted by: Theresa Dudley, PGCEA

Seconded by: Dionna Ricks, MCEA

Strategic Objective #3 Public Agenda

Cost: \$0 to \$80,000

NBI 08-09

Student Membership Recruitment

PASSED

MSTA shall establish a task force that shall be composed of active and student members to analyze potential and current student members. The task force shall be charged with creating strategies to recruit students who are enrolled in pre-service education classes at colleges and universities. Additionally, the task force shall report data on potential and current student membership to the MSTA Board of Directors with the intent of encouraging local associations to adopt college and university campuses in their counties to promote student membership.

Rationale: This NBI is to raise awareness within MSTA of the potential membership of the Student Program. The data that the task force will analyze should empower the local associations to help promote the union to this constituency group. Students need to build a connection between their education programs and the importance of their involvement within the union.

Submitted by: Amanda Froom, MCEA

Seconded by: Amy Watkins, MCEA

Strategic Objective #2 Member Well Being

Cost: \$2,000

NBI 08-10

MSTA Endorsement of Bonnie Cullison for NEA Executive Committee

PASSED

That MSTA endorse the candidacy of MSTA member Bonnie Cullison for NEA Executive committee in July 2009.

Rationale: Bonnie is a career public school educator and union leader in Maryland. She believes that voices must be at the center of developing schools in the 21st century, not the elected policy makers.

Submitted by: Wanda Twigg, EASMC

Seconded by: John Riley, ACTA

Strategic Objective #3 Public Agenda

Cost: No Cost

NBI 08-11

Accommodations for MSTA Members who are Hearing and/or Visually Challenged

PASSED

MSTA will conduct a study to determine whether we are serving the needs of our hearing and/or visually challenged members. MSTA will use the results of that study to determine whether any additional actions need to be taken and if needed MSTA will begin providing accommodations for hearing and/or visually challenged members at the 2009 MSTA RA.

Rationale: It is important to be aware of the needs of our members in order to meet them.

Submitted by: Tim Mennuti, TAAAC

Seconded by: Sara Silverman

Strategic Objective #2 `Member Well Being

Cost: Personnel