

READ Minutes for October 28, 2011

Location: Haldane Central School District

Present: Mark Villanti (Haldane), Joe Curto (Haldane), Debra Jackson (Highland Falls), Bertie Kozma (Brewster), Bill Oricchio (Hendrick Hudson), David White (Hendrick Hudson), Dana Levenberg (Ossining), Phyllis Glassman (Ossining), Giuseppina Miller (Croton-Harmon), Karen Zevin (Croton-Harmon), Ed Fuhrman (Croton-Harmon).

1. Information Shared: The Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents is also focusing on mandate relief this year. Information was shared regarding short term and long term “targets” on mandate relief in each of four areas: special education, transportation, fiscal mandates, and underfunded mandates. One example of a mandate the LHCSS is focused on is the requirement (in New York State) that psychologists must sit in on Committee on special Education meetings. Debra Jackson will distribute copies of the LHCSS materials electronically.
2. READ goal for 2011-12: Mark Villanti proposed taking a look at costs associated with APPR. Last in, first out (reduction in force based on seniority, not quality) is a problem. Debra Jackson stated that we want the highest quality teachers in our classrooms, and asked those present to weigh in on the goal for 2011-12. Bill Oricchio asked if now is the time to take on Triborough.

Dave White shared his view that APPR is going to be very expensive to implement; Rockland County’s research indicates the cost is at least \$100/teacher. Karen Zevin stated that the same issues exist with units other than teachers, such as clerical units.

Phyllis Glassman agreed that APPR should be a focus. She also stressed the need for coalition-building around this issue.

Dana Levenberg stated that she wasn’t sure what is realistic and mentioned the 2% tax levy cap and the cost of steps.

Debra Jackson shared that in 1982 an amendment to Triborough was created that stated all contract language (including salary schedules) continues if a contract expires; it is the amendment to Triborough that we should focus on.

Giuseppina Miller asked why we can’t just focus on what is right for kids. We need an expedited 3020A procedure and we need to keep the most effective teachers.

Bertie Kozma also supported a focus on APPR.

3. Conclusions:
 - READ should focus on unfunded mandates in 2011-12 as it always has.

- READ should also focus on APPR, last in-first out and 3020A reform.
- A long term goal of READ should be the Triborough Amendment.

4. **Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. Location: Lakeland (Copper Beech Middle School).**