

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2008 @ 6:00PM
Gateway, Board Room**

Mr. DeGraff called the meeting to order @ 6:04 PM.

Attendance

Board (Quorum was present)

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Phyllis Beyers, Jerry Bixler, Amanda Fletcher, Fred Moore, Bill Rudner, Chet Warren

Excused

Ron Macula

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO), Barb McClintock (Coach Operator), James Colby (Coach Operator), Donna Davis (Transit Supervisor), Gayle Atchison (Coach Operator), Terry Foss (Proline Reservationist), Jenni Alborn (Proline Reservationist), Amy Durkin (Customer Service Representative), Deborah Franklin (Coach Operator), Linda Stutler (Customer Service Supervisor), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), Wayne Kieffer (Maintenance Supervisor), Tom Williams (Transportation Administrator), Teresa Thompson (Director, Transportation), Kelly Zachary (HR/Safety Manager), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Bobbie Barnett (Customer Service Representative), Kelly Huston (Transit Supervisor), Suzette Stiles (Coach Operator), Rick Carlisle (Coach Operator), Omar Abdullah (Coach Operator & Union President), Anita Lopes (Proline Reservationist), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Gust Callas (Black McCaskey)

Other

Joe Carbenia (City Council), Brenda Barardelli (Former Maintenance Worker), Robert Wang (Canton Repository), Lou Maholic (AFSCME), Dan Sciury (AFL-CIO), Pinkie Guillen (Former Reservationist), Karl Lucas (SCATS), Robert Thompson (AFSCME)

Employee of the Month

Jenni Alborn was introduced as March 2008's Employee of the Month. She was congratulated by Board and staff.

Public Speaks/Citizen Communications

Deborah Franklin, Coach Operator, informed the board that not all union personnel support the union. She believes that union representatives promote division at SARTA. She reported that the union has threatened its members with fines, withheld voting tallies, and caused great stress on employees. She further believes that all SARTA employees should be grateful to have a job in the current state of our economy.

Lou Maholic, AFSCME/Union Representative, stated the decision to issue a strike notice was not a light decision. He believes that SARTA management forced Union members to issue a strike notice because there are two sets of rules - one for workers and another for management. He accused management of firing workers without just cause. He also complained about Mr. Odimgbe's behavior towards employees. Although he acknowledged financial hardship on SARTA's budget, he still feels it necessary to take this action.

Dan Sciury, AFL-CIO Representative, affirmed the union is designed to keep people together. He further stated that talk about replacing workers if they go on strike is blatant anti-union. He acknowledged that money is tight but urged management not to outsource jobs. He warned that if these actions were taken that management would not only be dealing with the clout of AFSCME Local 1880 but with AFL-CIO as well. Mr. Sciury also stated that outsourcing would destroy any initiative to pass any potential future levies.

Canton City Councilman Joe Carbenia, advocated for the board to intervene with 24-hour negotiations. He declared this city does not need a strike. Mr. Carbenia said that everything is negotiable but that everyone had to be willing. He also cautioned that he has always supported SARTA in City Council but he would not if management does not try to negotiate.

Attorney Gust Callas, Black McCuskey & SARTA contract negotiator, reminded all in attendance that the union recognized him with a certificate for his negotiating tactics in the past. Mr. Callas stated that he would do everything in his power to make sure that an agreement would be reached by the end of negotiations on Friday. He contended that the offers that are on the table are fair and that he is committed to serving this community, even if it means that he must drive a bus himself.

At 6:20 PM, Mr. Bixler motioned to enter an Executive Session to discuss 2 recent disciplines. Mr. Rudner seconded the motion; all board members agreed. The Executive Staff was asked to remain.

The meeting reconvened @ 7:40 PM.

A continuation meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2008 @ 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned @ 7:13 PM.