

January 18, 2009

- **LPN PROGRAM** – Gov Rell announced Nov 30th that she is suspending the adult LPN programs. We have been working daily to overturn that decision. The cut affects 44 union members in 10 schools. **Please see the LPN link on our homepage to see the progress that has been made.**
- **ELI WHITNEY RENOVATION** – The movement to restore Eli Whitney to the bonded money list continues. The staff at Whitney, with the support and attendance of the SVFT officers, will hold a legislative breakfast to be held on 1/20/10 at Eli Whitney.
- **TEAM** – New teachers who did not participate in BEST are required to complete the TEAM program to obtain Provisional certification. Ten of our members have been offered the opportunity to participate in the pilot program scheduled for this spring. ALL teachers who do not have Provisional Certification should have a mentor in their school, and the mentor will need to attend TEAM Mentor Update Training offered through the Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs). For more information, please contact Kim Traverso at Central Office.
- **SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION** – Interviews were conducted on Friday, January 8th. Final announcement is expected after approval by the State Board on February 3rd. For the first time in SVFT history, leadership was offered to participate in the interview process.
- **RACE TO THE TOP** – The Race to the Top fund provides educational grants to States that create conditions for educational changes. At a recent meeting a AFT-CT, it was suggested SVFT sign the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in order to be allowed to participate in future program discussions. If the union did not sign the MOU, there was a possibility that the union would not have input on future initiatives resulting in Race to the Top. Educational Commissioner Mark McQuillan has stated that the plan does not include a merit pay system.
- **GREEN TECHNOLOGIES** – Three schools [Grasso, Goodwin and Wolcott] have been selected to participate in a Weatherization and Green Technologies program. The programs, funded by grants, will supply equipment and training for an after school adult educational program. The equipment will be also be available for use by CTHSS students during the day. Once proven successful, the plan is to expand the program into three additional schools next year.
- **SEBAC** – SVFT leadership met with SEBAC representatives on January 16th. A full meeting with state representatives is scheduled for January 28th. Refer to SVFT's homepage for up to date information as it develops.
- **HEALTH & SAFETY VISIT** – The committee will visit Platt THS on Tuesday, January 19th.
- **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING** – The last meeting was held January 13th, please reference our web page for a synopsis of the meeting. Any member who has a question or concern should contact their building representative for discussion at the next Executive Council Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th.
- **MEDIA TRAINING** – A technology workshop has been offered to the SVFT officers from AFT-CT. The workshop will focus on using other media avenues such as facebook and twitter to keep membership informed of issues and create a collegial forum for members to contact other members.
- **WRIGHT TECH RENOVATIONS** – Ad-hoc committee meetings have been scheduled to develop a plan for Wright Tech in Stamford and make it a flagship technical high school. At the next meeting the committee plans to focus on identifying tracks, curriculum changes,

“green” technology, partnerships, and existing shops that need to be refurbished. **Please see the Wright Tech link on our homepage for more details.**