

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
2521 Riva Road, Suite L7
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by the President, Russell Leone, at Severna Park Middle School, at 5:12 p.m.
- ADOPTION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS** Upon a motion by Betsy Brininger, seconded by RaeAnne Mason, the Order of Business was approved with flexibility.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon a motion by Geoff Turk, seconded by Melissa Connelly, the Minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting were approved.
- GUESTS**
- President Leone welcomed our newest UniServ Director, Jephtha Nguherimo. He will be taking over the schools formerly handled by Mark Beytin.
- President Leone reported that a run-off election is required for NEA Director. The following candidates addressed the group:
- Erika Strauss Chavarria
Linda McLaughlin - by video
- CONCERNS COMMITTEES** Moved into Concerns Committees at 5:21 p.m.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
- Blueprint for Maryland's Future - President Leone reported that the Maryland General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. He stated that he will keep everyone posted on what we can do next.
- Elections - Nancy Davidson reported that the TAAAC Election Results and the Election Report are in the bags. She stated that there were 634 ballots received out of 6,337, giving a 10% member return.
- Ms. Davidson reported that nominations will be accepted until the April 15, 2020 RA meeting for Credentials Committee and Nominating Committee.

Ms. Davidson reported that the TAAAC Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Sick Leave Bank Approval Committee and the AACPS Calendar Committee (Elementary). Nominations will be accepted until the May 13, 2020 RA meeting.

President Leone asked Representatives to update the date on the back of the agenda for the next RA Meeting. The meeting will be April 15, 2020, at Severna Park Middle School.

Board of Education - BOE Endorsement Action - President Leone reported that there are 3 seats open for the Board of Education in District 2, 3, and 6. Everyone was sent questionnaires and the candidates that returned the questionnaires were invited for an interview. The Representative Assembly is the body which decides who to endorse.

Vice President Snyder reported that in District 3, there was only one candidate interviewed. The Interview Team's recommendation is to endorse Ken Baughman for District 3.

Vice President Snyder reported that in District 2, two candidates were interviewed. The two candidates are Raleigh Turnage and Bob Silkworth. Neither name will be on the Primary Ballot. The Interview Team's recommendation is to make no recommendation at this time.

President Leone reported that in District 6 there are 5 candidates, three candidates were interviewed. The names for District 6 interviewees are India Ochs, Erin Lorenze, and Joanna Tobin. The recommendation of the Interview Team is to not make an endorsement at this time.

It was moved by Betsy Brininger, seconded by Jill Grimm, to accept the recommendation of the Interview Committee and endorse Ken Baughman in District 3, and to make no endorsement at this time in District 2 and District 6. The motion was approved.

President Leone reported that it would be appropriate to make endorsements for the General Election.

Primary Election Information - Elizabeth Ruddy could not attend the Representative Assembly but a video was presented. She reported that the Go Team works to mobilize members to inform the general public on very important issues. She stated that there will be a training on March 28, 2020, to bring in new members and also will be planning on the election ahead. She also stated that she looks forward to meeting some new members.

Health and Safety Update - President Leone reported that the COVID-19 news is changing quite rapidly, and that at this time, all out-of-state and county field trips have been cancelled. He stated that we believe the county will start to cancel in-state trips, and suggested to keep monitoring the website.

NEA Report & Dues - President Leone reported that membership dues go three places. NEA is looking at a \$4 increase according to the national average of teacher salary. On the state level, an increase is anticipated but no decision has been made. On the local level, typically used is a formula and the increase for next year would be a \$5.00 increase. The Board of Directors has voted to only increase \$1.00.

Organizing - President Leone reported on how TAAAC would like to do some organizing. He stated that we want to hear from our members, tap into the skills of our members, and engage our members to increase the number of people that are actually involved. He also stated that we want to increase our member turnout at lobby nights, social events, and end of year events, that we need to look at our structure to find out where we are strong and where we need to be better, find out if all of our schools have building representatives, and if faculty councils are working and meeting regularly. He also reported that we will be looking at membership density, and that we want to increase social media presence.

Membership Events - Chris Lerch, Chairperson of the Membership Committee, reported that the Membership Committee is planning an end-of-year happy hour. He stated that the committee is also working on some other things like the end-of-year gifts for Representatives. He also stated that the next meeting will be March 19, at 4:30 p.m.

President Leone reported that other events being planned are a Family Fun Day at Six Flags set tentatively for June 13, and also tickets for the Bowie Baysox game.

Vice President Snyder reported that she is liaison for the Anne Arundel County PTSA. She stated that volunteers are needed for a Family Fun Day event being hosted on April 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Old Mill High School, and that they need people to work the tables for an hour. She also stated that you can bring friends, family and neighbors, and that your school does not have to be a member. If you are interested, please email President Leone.

Early Career Educators - Dylan Craig announced that there are two events coming up. He reported that on Monday, March 23, there will be an MSEA Early Career Lobby Night, and on Thursday, April 2, a social event at Mod Pizza in Annapolis. He stated that if you have an early career educator that is not a member, they are invited also.

Summer Leadership Conference - President Leone reported that the 2020 Summer Leadership Conference will be held July 14-17, 2020, at Salisbury University. He stated that this conference offers a lot of different opportunities for educators. Information is in the TAAAC President weekly updates.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER
REPORT**

Secretary-Treasurer Tami Thumbtzen reported that the Finance Committee will be meeting on the TAAAC Budget at the end of the meeting.

10-MINUTE MEETING

Kate Miller presented gift cards to Representatives for holding 10-Minute Meetings.

Moved into the 10-Minute Meeting to discuss signing the “Best Schools for All” letter and attending the County Council Budget Hearing on Thursday, May 7, at North County High School.

A vote was taken to approve to extend the meeting past 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Negotiations Update - Executive Director Page reported that he is working on Field Reports.

Executive Director Page reported that TAAAC has made a donation to the Lisa Rodvein Fund Raiser and the Allison Pickard Fundraiser, both in the amount of \$500.00.

Jill Grimm reported on the status of negotiations.

President Leone reported that this tentative agreement fixes everything with people being behind, depending upon County funding.

Advocacy - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials - Robin Murray reported that 72 Representatives were in attendance, which is 38% of the total Representatives, and 53 Units were represented, which is 36% of the total Units.

Minority Affairs - The Minority Affairs Committee is hosting the Mills/King Awards Ceremony tomorrow. There are 15 applicants and one has been chosen.

MEMBERS’ CONCERNS

If you have a concern, please complete the Member Concerns Form. If there is an urgency to your concern, call your UniServ. Member Concerns will be reviewed and answered by your UniServ. Member Concerns Handout will be distributed, with name and school removed, in the RA bags.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

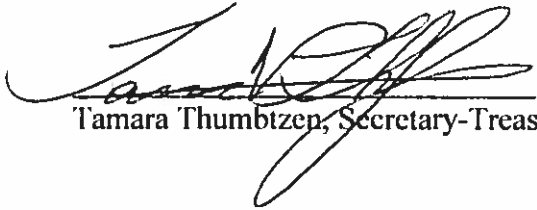
The next Representative Assembly will be held Wednesday, April 15, at Severna Park Middle School.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting
adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:


Tamara Thumbtzen, Secretary-Treasurer


Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting April 15, 2020
(Date)