

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
2521 Riva Road, Suite L-7, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by the President, Russell Leone, at 5:04 p.m., by a Zoom virtual meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT Beers, Benfer, Brininger, Carr, Córdoba, Cronin, Delph, Heintz, Liakos, Ruddy, Snyder and Thumbtzen.

Also present were Ken Page, Mark Mench and Debbie Lanham.

TAAAC's Mission & Vision were read by Robin Beers.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT The Land Acknowledgment was read by Jorge Córdoba.

ADOPTION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS Upon a motion by Betsy Brininger, seconded by Jan Delph, the Order of Business was approved with flexibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Upon a motion by Kate Snyder, seconded by Emmanuelle Carr, the Minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT It was moved by Tami Thumbtzen, seconded by Dyana Cronin, to accept the February 2021 Financial Report for Audit. The motion was approved.

ACTION ITEMS Reaffirm Vote on Steuart Pittman PAC Donation - President Leone stated that the action is to reaffirm our vote on the Steuart Pittman PAC Donation.

It was moved by Kate Snyder, seconded by Betsy Brininger, to reaffirm the electronic vote on the Steuart Pittman PAC Donation. The motion was approved.

NBI 21-03 - President Leone reported that the next action item on NBI 21-03 that the Board started to talk about and had some information given but there was not a position taken. He stated that he included an updated agenda with the Membership Policy from MSEA. TAAAC does not have it in as policy so we follow MSEA's policy. We were looking at costing out for this NBI but we do not have an exact cost yet. Unfortunately, this

information is not available to help base a decision. We should have the cost before the Representative Assembly.

It was moved by Richard Benfer, seconded by Allison Heintz, to move a position of opposition.

President Leone reported that it is the list of names and the budgets that are not currently on the website now.

Dyana Cronin called the question.

The motion on the floor of opposition. The vote in favor: Allison Heintz, Dyana Cronin, Tami Thumbtzen, Richard Benfer, Elizabeth Ruddy, Jan Delph and Emmanuelle Carr. The vote for opposition to a position of opposition: Jorge Córdoba, Kate Snyder, Betsy Brininger, Maureen Liakos, Robin Beers and Russell Leone. The vote is 7 in favor of opposition and 6 not in favor of opposition.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

County Council Timeline - President Leone reported that we are currently working with our Go Team and our GR Team in terms of our plan for lobbying our County Council. Dates to be on your radar are April 15 when Steuart Pittman is scheduled to present his budget on the whole county and then that goes to the County Council. County Council has a June 1 timeline for when they will make all their final pieces before sending it back to their prospective places, including the Board of Education.

Work to Rule and Safe Schools Work - President Leone reported that Executive Director Page and Keith Wright have put together the Work to Rule Power Point with a guide. The first session on Work to Rule had about 20 people attend. There will be more sessions held and we will carve out some time at the Representative Assembly to present information. It will include Do's and Don'ts and how do we make this more successfully so that people can feel that they can participate and not feel overly stressed about all the other things on their plates. He asked Board members what they are hearing about Work to Rule in their schools.

President Leone reported that Mark Mench has been leading the

work on the Safe Schools Training. They have been well received. People have a checklist and also some schools have teams that are working together to talk about the things in the school. The training will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays for the next couple weeks.

Executive Director Page reported that the checklist is building collective power. Folks are working together and we have had some really good victories at specific schools. These are really good tools.

Negotiations - Vice President Snyder reported that at our last actual negotiations and at our last few meetings we have been talking about TAAAC's proposals and we have received AACPS's proposals. She reviewed the proposals. Your Negotiating Team is working hard to come up with a good, solid list.

Vice President Snyder sent out the proposals for the Board of Directors to weigh in on their top 10.

RA Roles and Responsibilities - President Leone reported that he will turn over the entire hosting to Vice President Snyder. He stated he will not be able to see the Q&A Box and Vice President Snyder will be able to monitor the order of people asking questions. He stated that he would like to have 2 other Board members to be a co-host to monitor admitting people into the room. Betsy Brininger and Tami Thumbtzen volunteered to be a co-host. He stated that he needs a timekeeper during debate so that we can keep every speaker to the 3 minutes that are in our Standing Rules. Allison Heintz volunteered to be the timekeeper. Robin Beers volunteered to have Bylaws and Policies accessible for any questions that come up. He stated that he will reach out to some other people that have preregistered to read our Mission and Vision. He also asked all Board members to sign in about 15 minutes before the meeting.

Update Job Announcement: Communications Organizer - President Leone reported that we met on Saturday and had several interviews with some really good candidates for the Communications Organizer.

Betsy Brininger reported that we had 4 really good candidates. They were very different and a lot of different experiences but we were lucky enough to find Amanda Menas who is coming directly to us from MSEA where she has been working for a number of years. She has a lot of knowledge about us, a lot of knowledge about the state and how MSEA runs. We were all really impressed and think she will do well in this position. She stated that she thinks she will offer an interesting mix to the office. The decision to choose her was unanimous by everyone on the committee.

UNISERV UPDATE

Mark Mench reported that we are dealing with everything with accommodations and everything else. He stated that we are super busy and doing our best to stay on top of it. Health and Safety sessions are going well and wishes more people would come.

DIRECTORS DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jorge Córdoba reported that when we were voting on the contract and he had contacted 3 members via Hustle and was told that they were retired and could not vote. He stated that he said there was a problem and was told that the database was working and everything was going very well.

Mr. Córdoba reported that when emails for voting went to members there was a member that gets every single email from TAAAC but the one for voting was not received. The member emailed the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee and never received a response. The member talked to some colleagues at school and it was the same situation where they did not get the voting election email. The member contacted the building representative at the school and found out there were some members that were receiving the email in their AACPS email and not in their private email. He stated that this is clear that there is a big problem with the database and we need to do something about it. He stated that he is very concerned because we cannot afford to be an association that only has 10% of the members voting.

Executive Director Page stated the databases are different from who is controlling our voting. Most of our voting now goes

through Election America who relies on information from MSEA. He stated that this is the first of hearing of folks not getting ballots. He stated that he is happy to look at it in more detail. He stated that he will do a deep dive into our database and our relationship with the election company. He stated that after we get through the Review Board, he will review it and look at what database MSEA has and how they are communicating with Election America.

Jan Delph asked for the information on how the 10% compared to the last election in terms of voting turnout.

President Leone reported that in the race for president there was 2 that ran and it was 493 votes to 100 votes. It is really in line for what we had for a turnout this year with a total turnout of 666.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Leone announced that the Representative gifts were being sent out to the schools via basket mail.

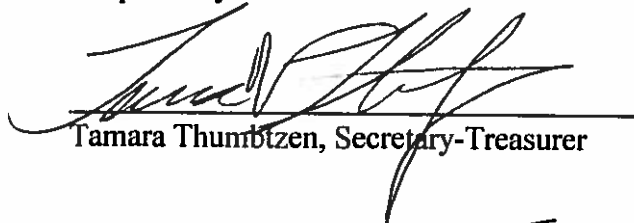
Next Board Meeting will be April 7, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Robin Beers, seconded by Emmanuelle Carr, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:


Tamara Thumtzen, Secretary-Treasurer


Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved BOD meeting Tuesday, April 6, 2021
(Date)