

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

MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Russell Leone, at 5:03 p.m., by a Zoom virtual meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Beers, Benfer, Córdoba, Cronin, Delph, Heintz, Liakos, Ruddy, Snyder and Thumbtzen.

Also present were Ken Page, Jephta Nguherimo, Amanda Menas and Debbie Lanham.

Absent were Betsy Brininger and Emmanuelle Carr.

TAAAC's Mission & Vision were read by Allison Heintz.

**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Land Acknowledgment was read by Maureen Liakos.

**ADOPTION OF ORDER
OF BUSINESS**

Upon a motion by Dyana Cronin, seconded by Kate Snyder, the Order of Business was approved with flexibility.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Richard Benfer, seconded by Allison Heintz, the Minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

It was moved by Tami Thumbtzen, seconded by Jan Delph, to accept the February 2021 Financial Report for Audit. The motion was approved.

ACTION ITEMS

NEA Stipend - President Leone reported that the NEA Representative Assembly is going to be virtual. We are not spending money for hotels, flights, etc. There are 5 sessions that people are being asked to partake in and some of those sessions will take place during mealtimes. He stated that he would like to propose a \$40 per session stipend for our delegates. This is an amount that MSEA has approved for the State Delegates.

It was moved by President Leone, seconded by Kate Snyder, to provide a \$40 per session stipend for 5 sessions for our NEA Delegates. The motion was approved with a vote of 9-Yes, 1-No, and 1-Abstention.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Welcome Amanda Menas - President Leone officially welcomed Amanda Menas. Amanda is coming to TAAAC as our Communications Organizer.

Executive Director Page stated that he is really glad Amanda is here. She has been great.

Amanda Menas stated that she is happy to be here. She is coming from the Maryland State Education Association. She stated that she was there for about 5 months before coming over. She stated that she is starting her third week and wants to let you know that if there is anything that she should know and learn, she is open and willing.

April 7 Town Hall - President Leone reported that tomorrow we have our Town Hall with Steuart Pittman. County Executive Pittman has confirmed that he will be with us. We want to talk about what the program is going to look like.

Amanda Menas reported that the Town Hall will start tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. You should have all received the weekly updates from President Leone that has all the information. The information is also on our Facebook page. There is a specific Facebook event that will also be streamed to start at 6:00 p.m. County Executive Pittman will be attending the event. Following some introductions from President Leone and Vice President Snyder, then passed to Adam Pagnucco to do a brief budget summary, and then a couple of members will be speaking.

President Leone stated that another reminder will be going out this afternoon. We will be, during this time, highlighting where money is that could be used toward our salaries. But, also holding County Executive Pittman's feet to the fire on past promises to support us in the effort to fix the inequities that have existed for way too long and hopefully we can get this done this year.

TAAAC Budget and Finance Committee Work - Tami Thumbtzen reported that the Finance Committee met for about 3 hours on March 24, 2021. The Committee went through every line item and discussed them. This Thursday, at 5:00 p.m., we

have the hearing for members to provide testimony about the Budget. Wednesday, May 5, the Budget will be presented to the Board of Directors. Wednesday, May 12, the Budget will be presented to the Representative Assembly. The end of May or early June, the second hearing will be held for members. We adopt the Budget on June 9 at the Representative Assembly.

President Leone stated that during this process of the Budget the Representative Assembly is the ultimate approval of the Budget. Board of Directors will get the Budget before to review and if the Board wants to take a position on supporting the Budget as a Board, we will be able to do that as well. These are recommendations from the Finance Committee. Amendments can be made to the Budget.

Review Board Decision - Executive Director Page reported that the Review Board wanted to be clear that they are done with their work and do not want to be in a position to answer any other questions. Their decision is in the full document. If there are questions or follow up needed, it should go to Executive Director Page. The Review Board has taken the decision that of the 350 - 400 emails and documents they went through, it will not be shared. Everything that they have decided, the full spectrum, is in those 3 messages that were in the email.

Negotiations - It was moved by Tami Thumbtzen, seconded by Jorge Córdoba, to move into Executive Session at 5:31 p.m. The motion was approved.

It was moved by Tami Thumbtzen, seconded by Kate Snyder, to move out of Executive Session at 5:39 p.m. The motion was approved.

Executive Director Page reported that the next Negotiations Session will be Thursday, April 8, all day. Where we are right now, a lot will depend on what happens with the money. We are prepared to propose a one-year economic package that includes the full funding that is contemplated currently by the Board of Education with whom we have identified as our 4 main other categories. The whole package is predicated on full funding from the county.

Executive Director Page reported that the Board of Education wants a 4-workday summer. They have also identified a portion for grant money that they are prepared to make available for a category of folks participating in helping students catch up that may have fallen behind during the pandemic this last year while we have been virtual. We want to know more about how they are going to define the work. We are waiting for them to put their economic proposal in writing.

UNISERV UPDATE

President Leone reported that the Special Educators were all called into a meeting and they were provided additional work that they have to get done for all of their students that is really going to add to their load in terms of reports and paperwork.

Jephta Nguherimo reported that the Special Education group is meeting this Thursday to discuss their way forward. We have enough people to file a grievance to challenge the Board over the additional work that is being required of them.

Mr. Nguherimo reported that the UniServ Directors are working on the regular cases for this time of year like appealing evaluations and terminations. We have been attending a lot of meetings with the Office of Investigations about alleged misuse of accommodations.

Timekeeper sheets have been created for all Unit I members to keep track of their time that is in excess of their duty hours.

DIRECTORS DISCUSSION None
ITEMS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Leone announced that information will be coming about TAAAC's 100th Anniversary. The Special Events Committee met. They have started to come up with some ideas for our celebration. The celebration will not happen until the end of the summer or early fall.

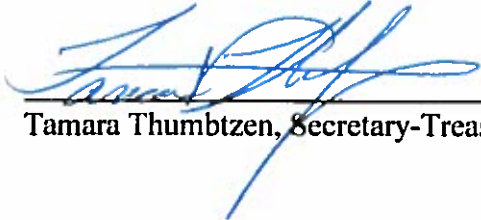
Next Board Meeting will be May 5, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Kate Snyder, seconded by Jan Delph, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted:



Tamara Thumbtzen, Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:



Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved BOD meeting May 5, 2021

(Date)