

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2521 Riva Road, Suite L7
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Russell Leone, by Zoom format, at 5:08 p.m.

TAAAC's Vision and Mission were read by President Leone.

**LAND
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Land Acknowledgment was read by President Leone.

**ADOPTION OF ORDER
OF BUSINESS**

It was moved by Krista Davies, seconded by Heather Kerlavage, to adopt the Order of Business with flexibility. The motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Leone reported that there are Minutes that need to be approved from February 9, 2022 and March 9, 2022.

It was moved by Robin Beers, seconded by Melissa Napfel-Sisk, to move the Minutes from February 9, 2022 and March 9, 2022.

Robin Murray reported that we do not have quorum at this time.

LOCAL

Blueprint/Workshop/Community Roundtable - President Leone shared some reminders about Blueprint. He stated that we have worked very hard over the years with the State level to get this into legislation. The Blueprint is State legislation, so there are many things that impact educators across the State. The Blueprint is very focused on the teacher and it does contain a narrow definition of a teacher. We are continuing to work with the State level and our discussions with legislators to hopefully broaden that definition as the Blueprint continues to go into effect. We understand that not all educators are included in the Blueprint. We must continue to keep ourselves at the table at the State and the Local level so we are included on how it is being implemented and brought into our community.

President Leone reported that TAAAC has implemented a petition which TAAAC is attempting to highlight those that are on the outside of the Blueprint. We want to make sure that we are including all subgroups of our membership that is not being addressed in the Blueprint.

President Leone reported that the school system has yet to implement their Blueprint Workgroups. When those workgroups are implemented, we want to make sure we are at the table with them.

President Leone reported on National Board Certification, we know that some of our members have National Board Certification but they don't qualify because of the narrow definition of what a teacher is under the Blueprint. We also know we have members that can't get National Board Certification because there is not something offered in the field that they work. We have some that have National Board Certification, but they don't get the extra stipend because of their work location. There are many prongs on how it is impacting our members in different ways.

President Leone reported that TAAAC is hosting a Blueprint Workshop on May 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. There is registration where people can join virtually. This is not just for our members because we are working on building our connection and partnership with our community groups. We are inviting NAACP, PTA, members of the Board of Education and members of the County Council to come join and look at what is in the Blueprint and how it is impacting our educators.

TAAAC RA Attendance - Elizabeth Ruddy and Kristina Korona addressed the group concerning TAAAC RA Attendance. Ms. Ruddy talked about the importance of the in-person RA. We have two more RA meetings this year. They are fun RA's where we give out our Building Representative gifts, celebrate members and we will also be celebrating Russell's end of term as President. There are snacks and we get to network with each other. Also, there is a survey that we would like completed to give us some information on what might encourage you to come to in-person RA's and if you can

commit to the last two RA meetings this year.

Kristina Korona emphasized that we feel in-person helps us build our power as Building Representatives. The power of the Union is here. We want your input on the survey because we would really like the next two to be in-person and going into next year.

President Leone reported that Crofton High School has been cancelled for the May Representative Assembly due to other events being held there and parking will be an extreme challenge. There will be an update on a new location.

10-Minute Meeting - President Leone stated he wants to use Breakout rooms for the 10-Minute Meeting to share in smaller groups. Breakout rooms did not work due to technical difficulties with sharing.

President Leone shared the 10-Minute Meeting script. The link for the script was also put in the Chat.

Class Coverage President Leone reminded the Representatives to continue to report when they are pulled from a class. Members have been getting the additional stipends of \$50.00 for each time they are pulled to cover classes due to the absence of a colleague. We are working to have that continued.

ACTION ITEMS

President Leone recommended that since we still do not have quorum that the Bylaws, Government Relations Endorsement Recommendations and Elections be presented for debate and have it recorded so that we can then send it out along with an electronic vote by all Building Representatives.

LOCAL CONTINUED

Nominating Committee - Nancy Davidson announced that the Negotiations Committee is open. The nomination form will be put on the website and the election will be held in June.

Ms. Davidson announced that in May, we will be finalizing ballots and conducting elections for the Sick Leave Bank (2-positions) and the Elementary position of the Calendar Committee.

Ms. Davidson announced that we have a number of Board of Director vacancies. We were going to have speeches tonight to fill the first vacancy that became available as a result of our election. We now have two other vacancies due to people stepping down. One position is a one-year term which will begin August 1 and go to June 31. The other vacancy is a two-year position. She announced the opening of the 2 additional Board of Director vacancies. In May, nominations from the floor will be taken and the election will be held.

TAAAC Events - President Leone reported that we are set to go for Pride and Juneteenth parades. Pride has a festival component that we will have a table. He shared a Google Form for people to sign up.

President Leone reported that he wants everyone to save the date for June 11. We are working on getting a Six Flags Day. More information will follow.

President Leone highlighted that we have Hershey Park tickets priced at \$39.95 per ticket and are valid for the 2022 season.

Negotiations - President Leone shared that as our Executive Director and Chief Negotiator is on medical leave, we have support from MSEA's General Council Kristy Anderson who has stepped in as Chief Negotiator. Supporting her, Josh Ardison, who is MSEA's Field Staff Manager. They have met recently with the Bargaining Team and are discussing economic priorities as we are moving forward in negotiations. The next session is Monday, April 25.

**ACTION ITEMS
CONTINUED**

President Leone suggested entertaining a motion to suspend the rules. He would like to record the next portion of our meeting. The 3 Bylaws will be presented that are up for a vote. We will take and record the debate on the Bylaws. We will also record Colleen Walker-Good who will be presenting a recommendation from the Government Relations Committee. We will record Nancy Davidson for the elections as we open nominations and accept names from the floor for Nominating, Credentials, and the vacant Board of Director seat. He

stated that he knows we have one person that has already filed for that seat who will speak. He stated that he would like to record, not take the vote this evening but send out the recording to all Building Representatives along with the ballots to cast their vote.

It was moved by Melissa Napfel-Sisk, seconded by William Johnson, to suspend the rules to get quorum, record the meeting and take an electronic vote. The motion was approved.

Kristina Korona suggested doing a Hussle with text as one of the multiple communications going out to the Building Representatives concerning the electronic votes.

President Leone asked Amanda Menas to start the recording of the meeting.

Bylaws - Jessica Roth, Bylaws Committee Chairperson, reported on three Proposed Bylaws Amendments. They are Article V - Officers and Directors, Section 3 and Section 5, amendment of terms of office for elected positions. Article V - Officers and Directors, Section 6, amendment regarding MSEA and NEA Delegates clarify a vote of the full membership and changing Convention to Representative Assembly. Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws full document language to change all he/she to they, him/her to them, and his/hers to their.

Government Relations Endorsement Recommendations - Colleen Walker-Good reported that there is one recommendation from the Government Relations Committee. She stated that the committee is moving in support for Representative Dana Jones, 30A, for the General Assembly.

Elections - Nancy Davidson reported that our Nominating Committee runs all elections at our meetings. We can take 15 members and right now the tentative ballot has Nancy Davidson, Kate Miller, Betsy Brininger, Jon Boughey, and Russell Leone. She opened the floor for additional nominations.

Nominations from the floor: Sheen Goldberg and Cathy Hall Guay.

It was moved by Betsy Brininger, seconded by Heather Kerlavage, to close nominations for the Nominating Committee. The motion was approved.

Ms. Davidson reported that our Credentials Committee can have up to 8 members. The Credentials Committee will establish whether we have quorum or not. They sign people in at the meetings. The tentative ballot has Robin Murray. She opened the floor for additional nominations. Nominations from the floor: Melissa Napfel-Sisk, Katelyn Smith, Nolan Fein.

It was moved by Sheen Goldberg, seconded by Robin Beers, to close nominations for the Credentials Committee. The motion was approved.

Ms. Davidson reported that we have a one-year Board of Director vacancy that was caused by the election this year. The tentative ballot has Diane Barnes. She opened the floor for additional nominations. No nominations were submitted from the floor.

It was moved by Robin Beers, seconded by Heather Kerlavage, to close nominations for the current Board of Director vacancy. The motion was approved.

Diane Barnes, running for Board of Directors, addressed the group.

Ms. Davidson reported that there will be 4 ballots that will go out for an electronic vote. There will be a ballot with the 3 Bylaw Amendments, the ballot for the Nominating Committee, a ballot for the Credentials Committee and a ballot for the Board of Director position. Also, added to these 4 ballots will be the ballot for the Government Relations Recommendation.

President Leone requested that the recording be stopped.

It was suggested by Krista Davies if there is any way to put all ballots on one Google Form in different sections.

Jessica Roth introduced Bylaw Amendments for the first read. They will come up next month for debate and questions.

Ms. Roth shared the Bylaw Amendment in Article X - Affiliate Departments, Section 3, amend to strike the language and eliminate fees for the affiliates.

Ms. Roth shared the Bylaw Amendment in Article VII - Board of Directors, amend to add mileage reimbursement for the Board of Directors for to and from the in-person Board of Director's meetings. President would not receive due to having a separate stipend.

Ms. Roth shared the Bylaw Amendment in Article IV - Representative Assembly, to amend conducting meetings without a quorum. It has been proposed that if quorum is not reached at the meeting, then the next month the Action Items that were not able to be voted on would come up regardless if there is a quorum or not.

It was moved by Melissa Napfel-Sisk, seconded by Mandy Santos, to extend the meeting passed 7:00 p.m. if needed. The motion was approved.

STATE

Update on the MSEA Spring RA - President Leone reported that MSEA had their Spring Representative Assembly. During that Spring Assembly, a budget was adopted, and endorsements were made at the State level. We have endorsed Wes Moore for Governor, Anthony Brown for Attorney General and Brook Lierman for Comptroller. The budget that was passed has a dues increase at the State level of \$12.00 a year. We are still waiting from NEA as to their dues increase. We are anticipating a \$2.00 NEA increase.

President Leone reported that Summer Leadership is July 12-15, 2022. He encouraged the Representatives to attend.

UNISERV UPDATE

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials - Robin Murray reported that she did not have the sheet with the total members. She stated that she will contact the TAAAC office to get that number and then email the percentage.

Government Relations - Colleen Walker-Good reported that we are going to start lobbying and visiting our County Council members. Let her know if you are interested in joining the Committee.

Member Organizing - Sammy Schrickel reported that because of Spring Break we pushed our monthly meeting to next week on Wednesday, at 5:30 p.m. She stated that she will send out an email and post in the Facebook group.

Special Education - Nicole Disney-Bates reported that there is a Special Education survey out. If you are a special educator or related service provider, please fill out the survey. On April 27, at 6:00 p.m., the Special Education Committee will be meeting.

Special Events - President Leone highlighted the save-the-date for June 11 at Six Flags. More information will be coming.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Leone announced to look out for the location for the May 11 Representative Assembly. We will be in-person.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maureen Liakos, Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:



Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting

June 8, 2022

(Date)