

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2521 Riva Road, Suite L7
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Russell Leone, at Severna Park Middle, at 5:00 p.m.

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

TAAAC's Vision and Mission were read by Sherry Harms.

The Land Acknowledgment was read by Melissa Sisk.

President Leone reported that we do not have quorum tonight. We will move through the agenda without taking motions. We will have to hold off on approving our Minutes from January.

**ADOPTION OF ORDER
OF BUSINESS**

No quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No quorum.

MEMBER CONCERNS

President Leone stated that he would like to take about ten minutes to talk about member concerns at the tables with the Board of Director members.

ELECTIONS

Elections open January 31- February 18, 2022 - Nancy Davidson, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reminded the Representatives that we are in an election right now and it is ongoing until Friday, February 18, at 5:00 p.m. She stated that she does not have good news about the voter turnout so far. We have not quite 5% of our membership that has voted so far. In your buildings, remind your members to vote. There is lots of information on the TAAAC website. Listed on the website is information on the candidates, the forum that was taped for people to view and the link to vote.

Nominations Open: Nominating Committee/Credentials Committee - Nancy Davidson announced that we will be opening nominations for the Credentials Committee and the Nominating Committee. We can have 8 people on the Credentials Committee and 15 people on the Nominating

Committee. We really need people to be thinking about stepping up and joining committees.

President Leone stated that if you cannot find your Membership Number, contact the TAAAC office to get that information so that you can vote.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Bylaws-Proposed Amendments (first reading: not vote) - Jessica Roth, Chairperson of the Bylaws Committee, stated that she is introducing the Bylaws-proposed amendments this month. Next month, assuming we have a quorum, we will debate and vote on these amendments. She reviewed proposed Bylaws for Article V- Officers and Directors, Section 3 and Section 5, Article V- Officers, Section 6; Bylaws full document language to include gender identity.

TAAAC Scholarships - Ken Baughman, Chairperson of TAAAC Foundation, reported to the group about the TAAAC scholarships. He stated that this year we will be adding a new scholarship for the Vocational students. Most of us teachers know that everyone does not go to college.

Mr. Baughman asked that everyone go back to their school and make sure the seniors are filling out the applications. Make sure they are filled out completely. When you receive the packet, please pay attention to the deadline.

Covering Classes - President Leone stated that covering classes was something that our Negotiating Team secured for us. This has been a long time coming. The other locals have been providing a stipend for a while now to educators that have covered other classes. Also, through collaboration with the other counties, has helped tremendously and the members sharing their stories.

President Leone stated that we know that some things we are hearing on the implementation need to be addressed. The intent of this is that if you are covering outside of your regular duties, then this will apply.

We do have to go back into discussion because of some sticky situations.

10-Minute Meeting - President Leone asked Board members to come up and present the 10-Minute Meeting.

President Leone stated that it is the Representatives job to track the attendance at the 10-Minute Meetings. There is a link on the slide that you can use to fill out the form.

Local GR - Colleen Walker-Good, Chairperson of the Government Relations Committee, reported that we have been meeting virtually with the Delegates. If anyone is interested in meeting with any of the Delegates, please let us know.

Colleen Walker-Good reported that Meighan Davis is scheduling interviews with candidates to see if we want to support. If anyone is interested in interviewing candidates, please us know.

Colleen Walker-Good stated that the Delegates need to hear from us because they really don't know what is going on in the schools. They want to know what is going on and how are we doing with things that are happening in schools. They only know what they are being told.

President Leone reported that there is an event for Allison Pickard that is happening this Friday. We still have some tickets if there is anyone that would like to attend. It is at Ellie's from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

TAAAC Budget Process - Secretary-Treasurer Liakos, read some important information from the Bylaws so we can discuss the TAAAC Budget Process. If you are interested in serving on the Finance Committee, there is a form to fill out. President Leone will let you know if you are appointed to the committee. In addition to the officers, the Finance Committee members consist of Ken Baughman, Stacy Fitzgerald, Kristina Korona, Rob Mauro, Donzella Parker-Bert and Karina Zotti.

President Leone reported that not only do we have county budgets going on, we have the school system budget, and we have our own budget. It is just as important that you are aware of TAAAC finances. These are union dues at work.

Blueprint and Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB) - President Leone stated that if you are not familiar with the Blueprint, we have been working on this Blueprint for years.

It passed and is in Legislation. There are some things in legislation that we are watching. There are some things that are not great for us. TAAAC is actively working with MSEA and with other locals on the impacts that we will see in your classroom and our professions as a result of this Blueprint. We as a local held two informational sessions that were recorded that are available on the TAAAC website.

President Leone reported that the Accountability & Implementation Board is going to be meeting again tomorrow about the proposed implementation time line. We are learning that there is a possibility that the implementation could be delayed by up to a year.

President Leone reported that those with National Board Certification are on that tract to have the ability to earn an additional stipend. We also know that among our membership, there are those job classifications that don't have National Board Certification. We are working with MSEA and other locals around the state to explore a proposed alternative that would allow them to have some of the opportunities as well.

NEA Leadership Summit - President Leone reported that NEA is having a Leadership Summit from March 7 through March 13. It just opened for registration. There is a virtual component. This is an opportunity for you to look at what kind of training is being done on the national level. TAAAC will cover the registration if you are interested in attending. There are a wide variety of things you can take part in like LGBTQ+ issues, social emotional learning, organizing and working with early career educators. He encouraged

Representatives to take advantage of this opportunity.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

No Report.

UNISERV UPDATE

Mark Mench reported that safety is a serious issue in a lot of schools. The Phoenix Academy is understaffed, has serious security concerns, weapons in the school, threats, assaults and not enough people to help. The kids are confident to order food and walk outside to get it. There is no consequence for the kids that means enough to them. Administration has requested more help and they have not received it.

Mr. Mench stated that we have created a Safety Committee within the building, we are reaching out to other units within the building not just the teachers, we did a survey, we did a letter to the principal, we have arranged to have a meeting with the delegation from the Board of Education. The principal is onboard. Three people from MSEA, Amanda Menas, and I met with the staff and all the different unit members and wrote a grievance. They are not providing a safe environment for the students and staff. Our end goal is the School Board meeting in March. Sometimes these situations need light. If a tragedy occurs, the grievance was the warning that something was wrong and there was nothing done about it.

President Leone reported that TAAAC purchased, for every Unit 1 employee, 5- N95 Masks that should already be in the schools or should be receiving them in the next days.

Mark Mench reported that he talked to the Board of Education about needing insurance on the laptops. We are having endless arguments over whether it was negligence or an accident. The Board of Education has agreed to investigate insurance. In the meantime, he suggested investing in a hard case.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials - Robin Murray reported that we have 42 Representatives with 21% and 41 Units with 27%.

Special Events - Chris Lerch, Chairperson of Special Events Committee, reported that we have a tentative date for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of TAAAC. It is going to be Friday, April 22, 2022, at Kurtz Beach. It will be held outdoors.

Mr. Lerch announced that the Mills/King Award Assembly will be held on May 19, 2022.

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Leone announced that our next Representative Assembly is March 9, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maureen Liakos, Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:



Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting June 8, 2022

(Date)