

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2521 Riva Road, Suite L7

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, January 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

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

TAAAC's Vision and Mission were read by Melanie Doucette.

LAND

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Land Acknowledgment was read by Katelyn Smith.

President Leone reported that we heard this week we lost 2 very active people of our Association. He asked for a moment of silence in honor of Tim Mennuti, Brenda Wilson and other colleagues who have passed.

**ADOPTION OF ORDER
OF BUSINESS**

It was moved by Jill Grimm, seconded by Marlena Colleton-Pearsell, to adopt the Order of Business with flexibility. The motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Geoff Turk, seconded by Robin Murray, to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2021 and December 15, 2021. The motion was approved.

ACTION ITEMS

GR Recommendations for State Senate (Districts 30, 32, 33) - Colleen Walker-Good reported that we have 3 State Senate recommendations. All we are doing is showing that we have met with these candidates and the Government Relations Committee has moved for support. We do not endorse candidates. We send our recommendations to the Maryland State Education Association for them to make their final recommendation for endorsement.

Dawn Gile - District 33, Pam Beidle - District 32, Sarah Elfreth - District 30, are the recommendations from the Government Relations Committee.

Colleen Walker-Good reported that the recommendation from the Government Relations Committee is to support

moving the State Senate candidates Dawn Gile - District 33, Pam Beidle - District 32, and Sarah Elfreth, to the Maryland State Education Association for final recommendation for endorsement.

Kate Miller reported that for the vote, the ballot has the 3 candidates and you will choose to support, not to support, or abstain to move the candidates to MSEA. The results will be reported later in the meeting.

ELECTIONS

Candidate Speeches - The following candidates addressed the group:

Toni Majias, running for NEA Director;
Donna Christy running for NEA Director, addressed the group by video.

Heather Kerlavage, TAAAC BOD;
Karina Zotti, Nolan Fein spoke on her behalf;
Daniel Kempler, TAAAC BOD;
Melissa McHarg, TAAAC BOD;
Emmanuelle Carr, TAAAC BOD;
Dyana Cronin, TAAAC Vice-President;
Kristina Korona, TAAAC Vice-President;
Marissa Raimond, TAAAC BOD;
Nicole Disney-Bates, President;
Kate Snyder, President.

Candidate Forum (Virtual) January 20 - Nancy Davidson announced that there will be a Candidate Forum on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. It will give all members an opportunity to listen to our candidates for president and vice-president. There will be a series of questions and they will be sharing the answers on Zoom. Our Board of Director candidates will be answering questions that will be posted on the TAAAC website. Every candidate has a biography on the website.

Elections Open January 31 - February 18, 2022 - Nancy Davidson reported that the TAAAC election is aligned with the MSEA election. It is online and will be conducted through

Election America. The election opens January 31 at 9:00 a.m. and closes February 18 at 5:00 p.m. During the election cycle, TAAAC will be sending out reminders to vote.

PRESIDENT REPORT

10-Minute Meeting - President Leone and Secretary-Treasurer Liakos did a presentation on the 10-Minute Meeting. Topics to discuss: FY22 Agreement Ratified, FY23 Bargaining Survey, County Council Budget Hearings, Blueprint, TAAAC Elections and Health & Safety. Make sure you track who attends the 10-Minute Meetings.

AACPS and County Council Budget - President Leone reported that the first Budget Hearing that the Board of Education held was very sparsely attended. The next Budget Hearing is tomorrow that is in-person. If you are signing up to testify, you must go to Old Mill High School between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Dr. Arlotto has asked for a full step increase as well as a 4% Cola for all staff.

Legislative Session - President Leone reported that today is the start of the Legislative Session. We will be forming teams. If you are interested, please contact the TAAAC office. They are limiting the number of people that can lobby.

RA Location Survey - President Leone reported that TAAAC sent out a survey. Severna Park has the highest number currently. We are still looking at whether we will move our in-person Representative Assembly around the county. He asked that you please complete the survey if you have not done so already.

Workload - President Leone reported that we do continue to address issues that we are hearing about workload. We know that workload is over the top for everyone. We are actively in talks over some relief for covering classes because we don't have enough substitutes.

President Leone asked Representatives to fill out the Member Concerns Form.

School Safety (Trainings Available) - President Leone reported that School Safety Trainings are currently happening.

Mark Mench reported that TAAAC is targeting several schools that have reached out concerning issues of safety in the building. We are trying to approach the schools in a way that is organized and brings members together and empowers members with the assistance of the UniServ Directors and MSEA. We are creating a letter that members will sign that goes to the principal and then follow it up with a survey that will be targeted to the building and its issues.

President Leone stated that he has 4 questions to share to get a pulse on what is going on so when he meets with the Board of Education President and Vice President next week. Questions on the poll are hand sanitizer, masks, masking enforcement, and confidence level of quantizing that is happening in the schools. The poll was launched, and results were shared on the screen.

President Leone reported that he has been informed by Dr. Arlotto and the Board of Education President that surgical grade masks are available at all schools, but the administration must request them. He stated that he has been informed that there is no plan to purchase KN95 masks for staff and students at this time.

President Leone reported that when students are sent to the nurse, different things are happening. If you send a student to the nurse because they are presenting symptoms, the first thing the nurse should be doing is accessing the student. If the nurse determines that the symptoms warrant a test, they are to call home for consent from the guardian or parent. If they do not receive that consent, the student should then be picked up. The student must wait in a designated area. Once the student is sent home, the student can return if they have a negative test or they have gone to see a doctor and the doctor has supplied clearance to return to school. Otherwise, AACPS is assuming that the student is a positive case and they must follow the quarantine which currently for students is 10 days. The

student can return if they are symptom free for 24 hours prior to coming back.

President Leone asked if there is an objection if we need to extend past 7:00 p.m. to continue the meeting? There were no objections.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Negotiations - Executive Director Page reported that the Bargaining Team is still negotiating a potential package around retention bonuses, substitute coverage and workload. We are scheduled to be back at the bargaining table soon. We are working on a counter proposal that should be back to the Board of Education tomorrow.

Executive Director Page reported that the Blueprint and the basis of it are going to be important on how we make difficult decisions. Amanda Menas will be sending out information about the next time we have a training. We want to popularize the ideas of what the Blueprint means, and how it may impact our bargaining.

Amanda Menas reported that the one big thing happening right now is the bargaining survey. There is a link to it in your 10-Minute Meeting and you also received it by email. It is incredibly important that we get your input.

Executive Director Page reported that we are late in terms of what the other counties are doing around FY23 bargaining. One thing we have is good models showing the way they ended up approaching and how they deal with the Blueprint.

UNISERV UPDATE

Report already completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials - Robin Murray reported that we have 83 Representatives with 41%. We now have 201 Representatives which is up 4 Representatives from December.

Nominating - Nancy Davidson reported that we have recommended moving the candidates for State Senate to the

Maryland State Education Association. Dawn Gile with 63 Yes and 3 Abstentions; Pam Beidle with 65 Yes and 1 Abstention; Sarah Elfreth with 66 Yes.

Nancy Davidson reported that there is 6 Board of Director vacancies. The Candidates Forum will be recorded and posted on the website.

Special Education - Nicole Disney-Bates reported that next Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. will be the Special Education Committee meeting. This month we will have our Department Heads attend. Meetings are open to all TAAAC members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

President Leone announced that he is broadcasting from the TAAAC Boardroom that has new technology. It allows us to do virtual meetings while also having people in a room together. Board of Directors meetings is open to our membership. You would need to make a request to the President at least 3 days prior to a Board meeting. The Board meets every first Wednesday of the month. You would only be an observer.

ADJOURNMENT


It was moved by Emmanuelle Carr, seconded by Krista Davies, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maureen Liakos, Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:


Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting

June 9, 2022
(Date)