

**TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

2521 Riva Road, Suite L7  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting**

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Land Acknowledgment was read by Robert Mauro.

**ADOPTION OF ORDER  
OF BUSINESS**

It was moved by Melissa Sisk, seconded by Linda Everett, to adopt the Order of Business with flexibility. The motion was approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No quorum.

**WELCOME: ALLISON  
YUNDA, UNISERV  
DIRECTOR**

President Leone introduced our newest UniServ Director, Allison Yunda. Jephtha Nguherimo has retired and she will be taking his place. Ms. Yunda addressed the group.

**MEMBER CONCERNS**

President Leone stated that he would like to take about 15 minutes to talk about member concerns. There were conversations at feeder system tables.

**ACTION ITEMS**

President Leone acknowledged that we do not have a quorum again. It is very difficult to do important business when we don't have people here.

Bylaws - The Bylaws will not be considered tonight they will be moved to next month.

Government Relations Endorsement Recommendations - President Leone reported that his concern is that we cannot do business and we have recommendations from the Government Relations Committee for endorsements of education friendly candidates at the state and county level. He stated that he will

go ahead and have Colleen Walker-Good present the candidates that are being brought forth for recommendation.

We will need to have an electronic vote of these endorsement recommendations.

Colleen Walker-Good reported that when we do the State House, these are to support a recommendation on the State level to MSEA. MSEA makes the final vote on endorsements. The following are being recommended:

Andrew Pruski, District 33; Courtney Buiniskis, District 30B; Jeff Garcia, District 31.

Ms. Walker-Good reported that we have friendly incumbents that have nearly perfect voting records which are Heather Bagnall in District 33, Mike Rogers in District 32, Sandy Bartlett in District 32, and Mark Chang in District 32. They were not interviewed individually because we have endorsed them in the past.

Ms. Walker-Good reported that the big one we need to think about is County Executive Pittman. This is going to be a big race and we need to make sure we support him.

Ms. Walker-Good presented the County Council candidates that are being recommended for endorsement:

Pete Smith, District 1; Allison Pickard, District 2; Karl Niemeyer, District 5; Julie Hummer, District 4; and Lisa Rodvien, District 6.

President Leone reported that when we talk about the State level, we can only recommend support because the actual endorsement comes from MSEA. For the County level, TAAAC makes the endorsement.

Pittman Event - President Leone reported that we will need to work with the Pittman team to postpone the Pittman Event for right now. More information will come out on that later.

Community Roundtable - President Leone reported that a Community Roundtable was formed and TAAAC has invited members of the other bargaining units, NAACP, WISE, PTA, and PASS. We talked about issues that we all have in common. This is a way to coordinate some of our efforts and build stronger relationships.

10-Minute Meeting - President Leone reported that he wanted to thank the Representatives that have held their 10-Minute Meetings at their school. For those that held the meeting and reported the attendance, there should be a Panera gift card in your envelope.

President Leone and Nancy Davidson demonstrated how to present your 10-Minute Meeting in ten minutes or under.

Nominations Open: Nominating Committee/Credentials Committee - Nancy Davidson presented during the 10-Minute Meeting the following information on Nominations. She stated that there are lots of opportunities to get involved in the association in the next few months.

The following committees are accepting nominations: Credentials Committee (8 seats); Nominating Committee (15 seats); Sick Leave Bank Approval Committee (2 Seats); Anne Arundel County Public Schools Calendar Committee -Elementary Representative (1 Seat).

Nancy Davidson reported that due to the results of the election, we have an open seat on the Board of Directors that will need to be filled. That position will serve from August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

Nancy Davidson stated that nominations for Credentials Committee and Nominating Committee are open until April 20. Nominations for Sick Leave Bank Approval Committee, Calendar Committee, and Board of Directors are open until the April RA meeting. All the nomination forms are on the TAAAC Website.

Nancy Davidson reported on the Election Results. Nicole Disney Bates was elected as President, Kristina Korona as Vice-President, and our Board of Directors are Marissa Raimond, Kristina Zotti, Melissa McHarg, Heather Kerlavadge, Daniel Kempler and Emmanuelle Carr.

Ms. Davidson reported that the MSEA and NEA Delegates were all elected.

Class Coverage - President Leone reported that we have had another conversation with negotiators at AACPS and were able to secure for special educators and related service providers with increased caseloads due to unfilled vacancies a \$50.00 per day stipend. The second thing we were able to secure, as far as special educators in special centers, the 50.00 stipend for special educators that are pulled to meet the minimum number of a classroom. As of right now, co-teachers have not been included when you must teach the whole class by yourself.

School Safety and BOE: March 16 Meeting - President Leone reported that there is a flyer in your envelope in reference to School Safety. The Board of Education has said that they know, but it is not enough to say that they know we need to come up with solutions. The RSVP with the QR Code to attend or testify at the BOE on March 16, at 5:00 p.m. is on the flyer.

President Leone reported that we have a few schools that have banded together as a staff and are asking for change.

Amanda Menas reported that we are moving forward with our Safety Organizing Plan. Put up the flyers on your bulletin boards so that everyone knows. This is something that is impacting every school and every educator. We need people to testify on March 16.

Sami Schrickel, MOT Chair, reported that next Wednesday, March 16, we want everyone to come to the Board of Education at 5:00 p.m. This Sunday coming up is when we can start submitting written testimony.

TAAAC Policy Review Workgroup - President Leone is putting together a workgroup to review the TAAAC Policies. He stated that he is looking for members that would like to participate with the workgroup to make recommendations on policy to our Board of Directors.

TAAAC Budget - Maureen Liakos, Secretary-Treasurer, reported on dates of the Finance Committee that are important for our budget for 2022-2023. Dates are as follows:

*Wednesday, March 30, 5:00 p.m.*, Finance Committee, in-person at the TAAAC Office;

*Thursday, April 7, 5:00 p.m.*, Hearing for Members to Provide Testimony, Virtual;

*Wednesday, May 4* - Present Recommendations of Budget to Board of Directors;

*Wednesday, May 11* - Present Budget to Representatives;

*May/Early June* - Second Hearing on Budget as Proposed, Virtual

*Wednesday, June 8* - Representative Assembly Considers and Adopts Budget.

Ms. Liakos reported that in your envelope is the Quarterly Financial Statement. Review the statement and reach out if there are any questions.

Superintendent Search - President Leone reported that there is a survey for the Superintendent Search to give feedback by March 16. He also stated that the Board of Education reached out to ask if he would like to be interviewed by the search firm they will be working with. He stated that he will be working with them next Thursday. He stated that he will be sending out a survey to all building representatives to get feedback to help guide him to make sure he has a representation of your voice.

Executive Director Report - Negotiations - President Leone reported that the Negotiations Team has produced a flyer that is in the envelopes. Negotiations have started. If you have questions on negotiations, reach out to Executive Director Page.

**STATE**

Teacher on the State Board of Education - President Leone reported that Rachel McCusker has served for almost two years on the State Board of Education. She has been doing an incredible job. She has been unanimously endorsed by MSEA Board of Directors and the TAAAC Board of Directors. Look for the email to vote. It is only open until Sunday, March 13, 2022. We need to continue to have a strong voice there for us.

**UNISERV UPDATE**

Mark Mench reported that the schedules have changed for next year. As building representatives, you are part of the FAC. You have a very important job to do in the fall. One of your main jobs is to advise your principal on your schedule for next fall. The principal will have to work around transportation. If you could survey your staff, because there are 4 basic models of a schedule. Your workweek is 37 ½ hours and lunch does not count. If you have a 30-minute lunch, your schedule should have you in the buildings for 40 hours a week. If it is a 25-minute lunch, you should be in the building 39 hours and 35 minutes.

Mr. Mench asked building representatives to have a brief conversation with all those not tenured in your building. By March 15, they need to tell everyone that they are not bringing back. April 15 is the last day to resign and keep all our benefits for the summer. May 1 is the last day to resign and not have the stigma of non-renewal. July 15 is the last day to resign before you are committed for the following year. If you have people that are being tenured this year and at the end of their 3<sup>rd</sup> year, they do not get tenured until the 1<sup>st</sup> day of their 4<sup>th</sup> year. But they do have the ability at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year to apply for jobs.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

IPD - Cathy Flanders advised the Representatives to look for an IPD event next month.

Special Education - Nicole Disney Bates reported that the next Special Education Committee meeting will be on March 22, 2022. We are trying to solve problems. If you are a special

educator and there is a problem, reach out and we will try and help.

Community Involvement - Amanda Menas reported that the Community Involvement Committee is one of our growing committees. If anyone is interested, there is a link to see updates. One of the things the committee has started is the donation of socks and helping to create clothing pantries. As you read your weekly updates, check out and see what the Community Involvement Committee is doing.

Credentials - Robin Murray reported that we have 43 Representatives with 22% and 40 Units with 26%.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

President Leone announced that he wanted to stress that we have action items for April, May, and June. Please talk to your colleagues about attending the meetings. He stated that before the next meeting he will be sending out an RSVP.

President Leone announced that our next Representative Assembly is April 20, 2022, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday due to Spring Break.

President Leone reported that the May 11, 2022 Representative Assembly will be held at Crofton High School.

#### ADJOURNMENT

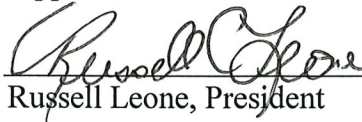
It was moved Melissa McHarg, seconded by Melissa Sisk, to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Maureen Liakos, Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:



Russell Leone, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting

June 8, 2022

(Date)