

**TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

2521 Riva Road, Suite L7  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting**

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Nicole Disney-Bates, at Arundel Middle School, at 5:07 p.m.

**QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH DR. BEDELL**

Dr. Bedell addressed the group.

Reading of Mission, Vision, and Land Acknowledgment - The Mission, Vision and the Land Acknowledgment were read by President Disney-Bates.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Melissa McHarg, seconded by Jon Boughey, to approve the agenda with flexibility. The motion was approved.

**CANDIDATE SPEECHES**

NEA & MSEA Candidates - The following candidates addressed the group:

Kimberly Sloane, candidacy for MSEA Treasurer;  
Joe Coughlin, candidacy for NEA Director;  
Nikki Woodward, candidacy for NEA Director, addressed by video;  
Linda McLaughlin, candidacy for NEA Director, addressed by video.

**TAAAC SPEECHES**

Speeches were given for TAAAC candidates for Secretary-Treasurer and Board of Directors. These positions will be voted on in the election that starts January 30 through February 17. It will be an online election. The following candidates addressed the group:

Cathy Flanders, candidacy for Secretary-Treasurer;  
Diane Barnes, candidacy for Secretary-Treasurer;  
Amy Hussey, candidacy for Board of Director;  
Maria Cote, candidacy for Board of Director;  
Will Johnson, candidacy for Board of Director;

Geoff Turk, candidacy for Board of Director;  
Maryalice Davis, candidacy for Board of Director;  
Dyana Cronin, candidacy for Board of Director, absent;  
Jennifer Fulweiler, candidacy for Board of Director, absent;  
Scott Gurien, candidacy for TAAAC Board of Director.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

It was moved by Will Johnson, seconded by Rob Mauro, to approve the Minutes of November 2022 and December 2022. The motion was approved.

### **AMENDING OF THE STANDING RULES**

Five-Days Notice - President Disney-Bates reported that for the Standing Rules there is a section #13 that states Building Representatives will receive all materials, agenda items, NBI's, and all pertinent documents, five-days prior to the Representative Assembly. This takes out the language of Friday and replaces five-days before.

It was moved by Elan Mizarhi, seconded by Rob Mauro, to amend the Standing Rules to remove Friday and replace with five-days before for receiving all pertinent documents. The motion was approved.

### **BEST THING TO COME FROM YOUR FAC**

President Disney-Bates asked Representatives to talk about what your Faculty Advisory Council has done this month and share with the group.

### **ELECTIONS**

Veronica Henderson, candidacy for MSEA Treasurer, addressed the group.

Board of Director Vacancy - President Disney-Bates reported that we have an open Board of Director seat that is open from now until July 31, 2024.

Nancy Davidson reported that we have one candidate but we can take candidates from the floor for this position. Currently the one candidate is Holly McDermott.

Kristina Korona nominated Chris Lerch from the floor. Elan Mizarhi was nominated from the floor.

It was moved to close the slate.

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Elan Mizarhi, Holly McDermott, and Chris Lerch addressed the group.

Secretary-Treasurer Vacancy - Nancy Davidson stated that there is an open seat for the Secretary-Treasurer. It is being announced tonight. At the February Representative Assembly, candidates from the floor will be taken and then the election will be conducted.

The election will open January 30 and close on February 17. An email will come from Election America. We have to get more votes because our percentage of voters are pitiful.

## **LOCAL**

Survey Results from the Building Representative Survey - President Disney-Bates stated that last month the Building Representative Survey results were shared. This is the Representatives' meeting and are their choices and options. The Representatives can decide if they want to explore further the hybrid with voting via workgroup, and if you want the Board to figure it out.

It was moved by Russell Leone, seconded by Rob Mauro, to continue with the format that we have under our current standing rules.

It was moved by Brendan Maltese, seconded by Jorge Cordoba, to extend the meeting. The motion was approved.

President Disney-Bates shared information collected on a hybrid format for the Representative Assembly.

Diane Barnes proposed an amendment to the motion that we create a workgroup to study what would be an effective measurement for hybrid or virtual Representative Assemblies. Russell Leone accepted the proposed amendment.

President Disney-Bates stated that our motion reads that we will keep the meetings as is and create a workgroup to explore feasibility, cost of technology, etc. and then we will discuss the pros and cons of changing the meeting to hybrid with voting. The motion passes.

ESP Bill of Rights - Will Johnson reported that he is an active member of our ESP Organizing Committee for the State of Maryland. One of the things recently released was our ESP Bill of Rights. The ESP Bill of Rights is providing living wages, affordable health care, safe and healthy work environments, paid leave, seniority rights, job security, career advancement, retirement, workload, and a right to a union for our ESP colleagues. Our schools cannot function without our ESP colleagues. I hope that we as TAAAC can vote to endorse the ESP Bill of Rights.

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It was moved by Holly McDermott, seconded by Kristy Davies, to support the endorsement of the ESP Bill of Rights. The motion was approved unanimously.

UniServ Update - Allison Yunda reported that more than 91% of the schools have been visited. We will be trying to wrap up the rest by the end of this month. The top concerns are coverage, workload, safety, and we have been hearing more about complicated issues with administrators. We have started implementing climate surveys at the schools where we have heard concerns. The big focus for the second half of the school year is to get to schools where there is not a big TAAAC presence.

Scott Soares, TAAAC's new Contract Specialist, addressed the group.

It was moved by Russell Leone, seconded by Rob Connerton, to support the endorsement of Nikki Woodward in the NEA Director seat for the upcoming elections. The motion was approved.

It was moved by Diane Barnes, seconded by Russell Leone, to support the endorsement of Colleen Norris for MSEA Treasurer. The motion was approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Government Relations - Brendan Maltese, Chairperson of the Government Relations Committee, reported that Board of Education Budget Hearings is on January 24, 2023, at Old Mill High School. There will be a second Budget Hearing at Riva Road on January 26, 2023. These County Budget Hearings are listening sessions. We need people to go to these sessions and to support the County Executive.

Mr. Maltese reported that the Legislative Happy Hour was a huge success. We are now starting lobby nights on Monday, January 23, 2023, every Monday through spring that is not a holiday. We will be meeting in Annapolis after school for a briefing from MSEA and then we will have appointments with the legislators.

Nominating - Nancy Davidson announced that Chris Lerch was nominated to fill the open vacancy for the Board of Director's seat.

Contract Action Team - Marlena Pearsell-Colleton, Chairperson of the Contract Action Team, reported virtually, stated that CAT has been meeting and the committee is open to all. We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, on Zoom. We want to organize to help support the Bargaining Team. The focus is trying to get a turnout for the Budget Hearing on January 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. We want to fill the room.

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IPD - Cathy Flanders, Chairperson of the IPD Committee, reported that a professional development is coming on January 23, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. It will be held at the TAAAC office. The subject will be Educating the Trauma Effected Child.

Early Career Educators - There will be an Early Career Educators Happy Hour at the Tap House in Severna Park on January 23, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Credentials Committee - Robin Murray reported that there are 86 Representatives for a 48%, and 60 Units for a 40%.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elizabeth Ruddy announced the schools with the most signed up to participate in the elections and presented gift cards from Dominos. The schools were the following: Shady Side Elementary, Sunset Elementary, Old Mill Middle South, Mayo Elementary and Brooklyn Park Elementary.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Approved:



Kristina Korona, Vice President



Nicole Disney-Bates, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting

May 10, 2023  
(Date)