

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

2521 Riva Road, Suite L7
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MINUTES - Representative Assembly Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Nicole Disney-Bates, at Severna Park Middle School, at 5:13 p.m.

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 suggested that under IX. Local - add e. Discussion Further of the Hybrid.

It was moved by Zoe Vilicic, seconded by Todd Christopher, to adopt the agenda with the amendment of Hybrid and with flexibility. The motion was approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The meeting Minutes for January could not be approved. There were no copies in the folders.

Cathy Flanders stated that she would like an amendment to the February Minutes. She stated that she would like to make an addition to Russell Leone's statement. "Russell Leone stated that at Board Budget meetings he saw that the president was not there speaking on behalf of TAAAC members. He asked why the president, as a voice of the association, was not speaking at these events or having an official designee."

She stated that she would like to amend them to also state that in addition to the proceeding; Russell Leone stated that at Board Budget meetings, he saw that the president was not there speaking on behalf of TAAAC members. He asked why is the president not speaking at these events or having an official designee to help?

President Disney-Bates stated that there will be a discussion on how Minutes should look. Per Robert's Rules there should be a general discussion.

Russell Leone stated that the question asked was, what was the decision of the Board and where was our representation? He stated that he thinks that is important.

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President Disney-Bates stated that after a conversation with the Board, we are going to amend the paragraph to include what was the decision of the Board. This will be added at the very end.

President Disney-Bates stated that the amendment will be “He stated that he does not think he saw an official voice of TAAAC or anyone speaking officially for TAAAC at any of the Town Halls.”

All those in favor of approving the February Representative Assembly Minutes as amended. The February Representative Assembly Minutes were approved.

CONCERNS COMMITTEE

President Disney-Bates split the group up into elementary, middle, high and speciality sites for Concerns Committees.

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

Contract Specialist - President Disney-Bates stated that in January, TAAAC hired a Contract Specialist.

Geoff Turk, Board of Director, stated that if you look at the old description of the Executive Director’s duties, it is extensive. The Contract Specialist’s primary responsibility will be to negotiate the contract between TAAAC and the Board of Education. The Contract Specialist will support the membership and the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors worked since late summer to identify and analyze our most immediate needs as a union. We believe the creation of the Contract Specialist position will strengthen our negotiating position both now and in the future. The Board of Directors will continue to evaluate staffing needs and organizational structure moving forward.

President Disney-Bates stated that June 2022, Ken Page, the Executive Director of TAAAC resigned. The Board began to start having discussions. The Board voted to hire a Contract Specialist while continuing to evaluate the needs of the association. Our Board of Directors has a Special Session scheduled to further discuss the position of the Executive Director.

Lisa Rodvien asked how can the Board of Directors ignore what is in the Bylaws concerning the Executive Director?

Kristy Anderson stated that the Board decided that TAAAC had immediate needs. There is nothing that says it has to be done immediately or has to be done within 6 months.

Lisa Rodvien asked what steps have the Board and our President taken to hire an Executive Director?

Kristy Anderson stated that the Board is continuing to have those conversations.

Kristy Anderson stated that the UniServ Directors are MSEA employees. They are not TAAAC staff. The local Executive Director has no authority over MSEA UniServ Directors. The Board of Directors is scheduled to have conversations about the Executive Director at TAAAC.

It was asked what happens to the unspent money for the Executive Director and what are the options for using that money?

President Disney-Bates stated that the money sits, and it would turn into surplus. A decision would then be decided about where to move it. Those funds are paying for the Contract Specialist.

Transition within TAAAC - Kristy Anderson reported that Mark Mench has transferred to PGCEA and Allison Yunda has resigned for personal reasons. We are in the process of filling those positions. We have someone that has already been assigned to help in the interim.

Budget Advocacy - Amanda Menas stated that it is budget season for Anne Arundel County. We need help from everyone in the room to make sure we are all on the same page, when it comes to fully activating for full funding of public education. When it comes to what we are doing next, there has been a plan put together on how to make this happen. She reviewed the plan.

President Disney-Bates reported that the Board voted to move \$60,000.00 from the Crisis Fund to move forward with this plan.

BEST THING TO COME FROM YOUR FAC

No report.

TRAINING: PRESENTING A LEVEL I GRIEVANCE

Mike Magee reported that TAAAC has started to do micro trainings at the Representative Assemblies to help building representatives to be stronger. This month's will be on Presenting a Level I Grievance.

ELECTIONS

Secretary-Treasurer Seat - Nancy Davidson stated that the first election will be for Secretary-Treasurer. Diane Barnes has put her name on the ballot for this position. This is filling a term that ends at the end of July 2023. She asked for nominations from the floor. No names were submitted.

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It was moved by Rob Connerton, seconded by Kate Werner, to close the slate. The motion was approved.

It was moved by Melissa McHarg, seconded by Marissa Raimond, to move the slate. The motion was approved.

Board of Director Seat - Nancy Davidson stated that there are two candidates for the vacant Board of Director Seat to finish a two-year term by July 2024. The names on the ballot are Scott Gurien and Cathy Flanders. Ms. Davidson asked for additional names from the floor. No names were submitted.

It was moved by Rob Connerton, seconded by Mike Vigna, to close the slate. The motion was approved.

It was moved by Krista Davies to extend the meeting. The motion was approved.

Candidates addressed the group.

Nancy Davidson announced that the Sick Leave Bank Approval Committee and the Calendar Committee (secondary position) are open. The nomination forms are on the TAAAC website. The election will be in May.

Nancy Davidson announced that the Credentials and Nominating Committees are open. Negotiations Committee will be coming up.

LOCAL

Workforce Housing Bill - Brendan Maltese, Government Relations Chairperson, reported that the City of Annapolis is putting forth a Workforce Housing Bill. They are trying to get this bill through the City Council. We are bringing this to the Representative Assembly to ask if the Representatives will endorse this bill.

It was moved by Rob Connerton, seconded by Todd Christopher, to endorse the Workforce Housing Bill. The motion was approved.

Blueprint Update - Scott Soares gave an update on Blueprint. He stated that there was a meeting today with AACPS; this was more of a conversation of what are the goals.

Community Forum about the Budget - Kristina Korona reported that the Board of Directors voted along with the campaign on the budget to hold a community forum on April 13, 2023. The goal of this is to help engage our community, and to help advocate to ensure that the school board budget is fully funded by the county council.

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UniServ Update - Mike Magee reported that if you have time sensitive grievances, reach out to TAAAC. He stated that it is the season for renewals and evaluations. April 15 is the deadline by which if you are non-tenured, you must be told that you are not going to be renewed. If you have questions, reach out to TAAAC. If you are a tenured Unit 1 member, you can apply for an internal transfer without a hassle next school year starting March 1. He stated that by April 15, you must give notice of your intent to resign.

Amanda Menas reported that there is a slide of the 10-Minute Meeting with all this information.

Marlena Colleton-Pearsell suggested that TAAAC go back to putting information either in the weekly email or a flyer for the bulletin boards.

Mike Magee updated on the grievances.

Negotiations Update - Mike Magee reported that the last session was a good session. He reported that the Bargaining Team received a proposal from AACPS on sub-coverage. The next session is scheduled for March 22, 2023, and will come with their financial proposal. The Contract Team Committee will be meeting on March 15, 2023.

President Disney-Bates reported that Community Forum on the Budget will be moved to April 17, 2023.

Discussion Further on Hybrid - President Disney-Bates reported that we sent out a request for volunteers for a Workgroup. There has not been much interest. We will send it out again and then move on. It should begin in about 2 weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Credentials Committee - Robin Murray reported that there are 84 Representatives for 46%, and 69 Units for 46%.

Nominating Committee - Nancy Davidson reported that Cathy Flanders won the election for the vacancy on the Board of Directors.

Government Relations - Brendan Maltese, Chairperson of the Government Relations Committee, reported that we have been lobbying every Monday at Annapolis. We do have school board elections coming up in a year and a half. If you are interested in running for one of those positions, please let us know.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Disney-Bates announced that there is a Blueprint Forum on March 23, 2023, and the Committee Chairs meeting will be on March 14, 2023.


ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Approved:



Kristina Korona, Vice President



Nicole Disney-Bates, President

Minutes approved at ARC meeting May 10, 2023

(Date)