



TAAAC
December 2023

Action Report

Nicole Disney Bates, President
Kristina Korona, Vice President
Diane Barnes, Secretary-Treasurer

What does politics have to do with me?

If you've ever wondered why TAAAC is so involved in local elections and heard the short answer of "everything that impacts our students and classrooms is political," here's the longer answer:

- Our salaries are negotiated with the Board of Education
- Our retirement benefits and pension are set by the Governor and General Assembly
- Our school budget is debated by the County Council
- Our class size negotiations are limited by the General Assembly
- Our health and safety standards are enacted by Congress

If you care about the length of your work day, the dates that the school calendar starts and ends, and your duty-free lunch, those are all set by the Board of Education... with our input. We're involved because if we aren't at the table, it is easier for politicians to take bad votes that make it harder for us to do our jobs. Most of the people in office have not stepped into a school building since they graduated high school, and it is up to us to keep them up to date.

Politicians trust educators. Let's help them make good decisions that support our students, working conditions, and salaries.

In the year ahead, there will be many opportunities for you to get involved in local, state, and national elections and it will be easy to get overwhelmed. So here are some things that might help you remember why voting, testifying, or donating matters to you:

1. If you have student loans, District 33 Senator Dawn Gile is proposing legislation that will repay portions of loans for educators.
2. If you are a special educator, MSEA is writing legislation that will put up guardrails regarding contractors in our school systems.
3. If you want to protect our libraries from book bans, District 30A Delegate Dana Jones is sponsoring a bill that will keep books on shelves and support honest, inclusive education throughout our communities.

There are so many ways to get involved, so remember: together, we are stronger!



Board of Education Budget Hearing

Do you want to see a salary raise in our next contract? Do you think we deserve stronger contractual rights?

The way we win strong contracts starts now!

Here's what you can do:

- RSVP to attend the BOE Budget hearing
- Sign up to testify on our priorities

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Time: 6-8 PM

Location: Old Mill High School



**TAAAC Board
of Directors**

Maria Cote
Dyana Cronin
Maryalice Davis

Cathy Flanders
Will Johnson
Chris Lerch

Melissa McHarg
Marissa Raimond
Jessica Roth

Geoff Turk
Karina Zotti



TAAAC Member Resources

For more information, visit www.taaaconline.org.

CONTENTIA: UniServ Update

One of the unfortunate realities of teaching is dealing with unreasonable parents. Here are your rights and options when parents cross the line from well-intentioned concern into harassment or threats:

1. You can firmly, but calmly, assert to the parent that you will no longer be engaging with them directly and that they can forward any further communication to your supervisor.
2. Work with your supervisor to create a plan for how to handle a harassing/threatening parent. Administration CANNOT force you to put yourself in harm's way by continuing to engage with a threatening parent.
3. Document any negative interactions with the parent and limit those interactions to writing where possible. Keep a digital and hard copy of all correspondence.
4. If tensions escalate, you can pursue a "peace order" (Maryland's version of a restraining order) at your local Maryland state courthouse that would limit the form and degree of contact from the parent. Your UniServ Director can help you navigate this process.
5. In extreme situations where your safety or that of others is threatened, you can contact law enforcement to intervene.

MSEA Legal Staff and your UniServ Directors are available to assist with any questions or incidents that emerge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 4: Contract Action Team
Jan 6: Government Relations Committee & Legislative Happy Hour
Jan 9: BOE Budget Hearing
Jan 10: Representative Assembly
RSVP for more events at:
taaaconline.org/events

UNION ELECTIONS

The TAAAC Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for:

- President
- Vice President
- Board of Directors (6)
- NEA Delegates (34), and
- MSEA Delegates (50).

Nomination forms must be received at the TAAAC Office by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023.

Submit your Nomination:
taaaconline.org/taaac-elections/

LEGISLATIVE HAPPY HOUR

Join educators and elected officials to kick off the 2024 legislative session! Learn about the legislative process, discuss upcoming education bills, and meet your legislators.

Date: Saturday, January 6 from 6-8 PM

Location: Friscos Tap House

RSVP at

secure.ngpvan.com/vVOEquaxF0G43xkQTFQqGA2

HOT TOPIC COLLABORATIVE

Join us to learn about your rights as a teacher in dealing with extreme student behaviors, what rights your students have, and what actionable steps you can take to protect yourself and your students.

January 30, 2024 at 4:30 PM | Virtual

RSVP: secure.ngpvan.com/oMcXriYn4ECldzQntxL9xQ2

NEW TAAAC MEMBERS

9 new members joined our union in November! Meet them at

taaaconline.org/2023/11/01/nov23nm/

EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Jennifer Laque, a PPW and the Homeless Liaison for the county, for being named Educator of the Month!