# **Action Report**

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

## See you later.

This is our goodbye and it's a hard one. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together. Together, we used our voices to: bring awareness that AACPS is using Special Education Contractors, to defeat a flag ban, to encourage the county to pass an education-friendly budget, and to vocalize our concerns about the current budget. These things would not have been accomplished without you.

You are the center of your union. While I as your president could speak up and speak out; your voice matters. When you speak up and speak out, people listen. Your union depends not just on you but on every one of us. When we come together, we show strength and unity. Our strength is not just in our collective voice but it is also in our committees, in our Building Reps, in our FACs, in our Board, in our Executive team, and in our negotiations team. Our strength depends on you and your involvement. The more of us that get involved the more that your union can do!

My final advice as your president is:

- 1. **Read your contract.** If you believe there is a violation of your contract let your FAC know, let your Building Rep know, and/or let your UniServ Director know.
- 2. **Find a way to get involved.** There are lots of opportunities to get involved in TAAAC. There are committees, there are events, there is being a Building Rep, seeking election to the Board of Directors, going to a lobby night, etc...
- 3. **Be patient.** It sometimes takes a long time to get to yes and sometimes there is never a yes. But, things often move slowly and patience is often needed.

In the end, I want to thank you. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to lead you, to advocate for and with you, and to share donuts with you. I have enjoyed being YOUR president. Thank you!

# **ACTION: SIGN THE IMPASSE PETITION**

Our bargaining team wants to show that TAAAC members are united in demanding the Board of Education settle a fair contract with high wages and low health insurance changes. Add your name to let AACPS know we won't settle for hikes to our health insurance costs without fair wages or working conditions!



**WANT TO GET YOUR STEPS IN THIS SUMMER?** Help door knock for pro-public education candidates! TAAAC is working with Field Strategies to pay \$30/hour for volunteer door knockers in Districts 3, 5, and 7. Visit this link to sign up: <a href="mailto:forms.gle/LmxXBEX9e4Fb4roy5">forms.gle/LmxXBEX9e4Fb4roy5</a>



### **TAAAC Member Resources**

#### CONTENTIA: UNISERV UPDATE

We have heard several concerns from members about returning and receiving laptops from AACPS. The contract members signed to receive a new laptop appears unchanged from previous years and is in line with the Negotiated Agreement. However, the document you sign when you return old laptops is concerning since it claims your final pay can be garnished if they find damage on the returned item. This does not align with our contract.

The burden of proof is on AACPS to demonstrate any damage was caused by negligence before levying charges for repairs. If AACPS garnishes your wages, or attempts to, contact your UniServ Director immediately and we will assist you in filing a grievance to prevent/recoup those charges. We are also in discussions with AACPS to amend the language in the laptop return document to align with the "negligence" language of our contract. Article 2 P: "[...]Unit I members will be answerable for the books, materials and equipment assigned to them in the course of an academic year. They will not be financially responsible for the materials, their loss or damage to them unless they are negligent."

#### **MSEA SLC**

Registration is open for MSEA's Summer Leadership Conference, held July 23-25! RSVP: marylandeducators. wufoo.com/forms/z1rxl5ju1ku34ej/

#### **JUNTEENTH FESTIVAL**

Join TAAAC to march in the annual Celebrate Annapolis Juneteenth Festival and host a booth!

- Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024
- Time: Parade starts at 12pm, Festival starts at 1pm
- Location: Parade starts at Calvert and West Street. Festival at Bates Athletic Complex
- RSVP: <u>secure.ngpvan.com</u> <u>/7aLYfql4sEe8VGusMqDN0Q2</u>

#### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Attend TAAAC's inaugural Leadership Development Conference on August 14-15! Learn about your union rights, organizing, and classroom management tips! Sign up here:

secure.ngpvan.com/XxGycmR0VU6bZ MNbXpiKSQ2

#### **SICK LEAVE BANK**

Learn about how the Sick Leave Bank can help you! Open enrollment is between July 1 and September 30! Current enrollees have until June 30 to cancel for the following school year. Learn more: <u>bit.ly/3nEfApM</u>

#### **JOB OPPORTUNITY**

Goldsmith Education, a STEM education company, is looking for instructors for summer 2024. Learn more and apply at: taaaconline.org/job-opportunities/

Welcome to the four new TAAAC members who joined our union last month! Reminder that early enrollment has begun. Learn more at: https://www.mynea360.org/s/join-now





