

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

United Teachers of Seaford

Present:

Matt Adler-
Edward Kent-
Maura Coghlan-
Jennifer Wemssen-
Curtis Tripoli-
Keri Degnan
Jen Walsh-

Jean Marie Aplustille-
Lisa Gagliano-
Ann-Marie Motisi-

Kerry Hansen-
Suzanne Mooney-
Roman Wojcik-

Eric Lichtwar-

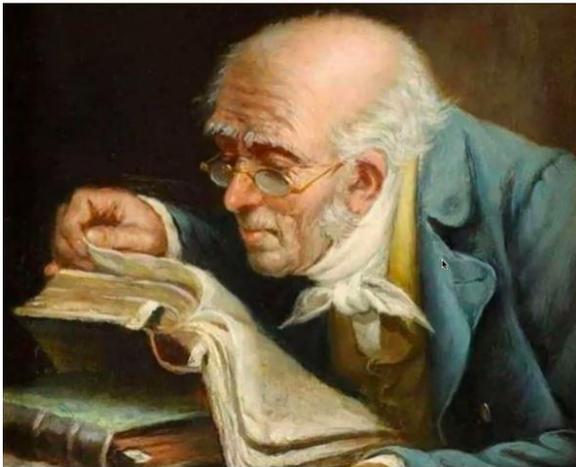
Christine Lindquist-
Joanna McCloskey-
Kevin Nichols-
James Scourtos-

Absent:

Danielle Alveari
Brian Horner

1. Meme of the Month

How I feel looking up the meaning of all the new slang words my students invent every other day...



2. RECORDING SECT'Y-Keri Degnan

a) Maura made a motion to approve the amended minutes of February 8, 2021. All in favor.

3. TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR-Jen Wemssen

a) No real changes from the last meeting except we did earn \$0.82 in interest on our checking account. Deductions for union dues were taken out of the last two paychecks (for a total of 11/16 dues deductions so far.) We also paid our dues to NYSUT. Maura made a motion to accept the budget summary report. All in favor.

b) Jen Wemssen asked if the UTS would like to make our annual donation for the Patriot Award for \$2000? If the award ceremony does not have a dinner event, the UTS would have the opportunity to either return the \$2000 or donate it. Matt felt the UTS should donate the money to the award.

c) Barbara Richko is the Brick Master for the 9-11 committee, if anyone would like to purchase a commemorative brick or a \$20 commemorative coin please contact her. Both support the 9-11 Memorial Scholarship. Ed made a motion to donate \$2000 to the 9-11 Foundation. Maura seconded

the motion. All approved.

4. PRESIDENT-Matthew Adler

a) COVID update

- i. The numbers across the state and county are decreasing. Nassau County currently has 23.1% of the population receiving the first vaccine. Today, the county opened up the Nassau Coliseum for vaccinations. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is out there, so we should continue to see more positive news. A bump for our district occurred with the sport testing within the district. The Football team had 4 positive cases, as well as the Volleyball and Cheerleading teams both had 3. Currently, there are about 90 people quarantined in the district.
- ii. As of today, Central Administration has not made headway for having Seaford Schools as a vaccination site.

b) Updated Travel Advisory

- i. NYS updated the travel advisory, two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine, NYS residents will not have to quarantine if you travel beyond the contiguous states. Be aware, this advisory may change at any time.
- ii. This past weekend, the Senate passed the stimulus bill of \$130 billion, which includes money for schools. How much will trickle down for Seaford, we do not know at this time.
- iii. The Empire Pandemic Grant Program will reimburse money for childcare and travel expenses during the pandemic for up to \$1000. It is a first come first serve grant. Keep looking for information about the application!

c) Red for Education

- i. Please encourage all to wear Red for Ed, this Friday, March 12. This is to mark one year since schools have been closed/hybrid. Please take photos and print out signs!
- ii. Standardized testing is still being pushed by the Federal Government. Do we as the UTS support the opt-out movement? For the past few years we did rent out the OPT-OUT truck to be placed in front of the schools, and it got a lot of attention. The elementary students who are fully remote will be forced in for testing. The students who were opting out normally would be sent to a different room. Under these current conditions, where will they go? Seaford typically has a very high opt-out testing rate. We support a parent's right to opt-out. We technically can't support opting out (pro-education).
- iii. Is there any blowback from any members of the community? We are not doing anything different. The tests are in April, May, and June (8th-grade science). What are other districts doing? Matt will compose a letter for further approval.
- iv. 2019 we paid \$650 for the billboard. The Freeport Teachers Association and Billboard on Wheels organized the billboard. Matt will find out more information about it.

5. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. **Maura** – Maura thanked everyone for all their hard work.
- b. **Ed** – Ed thanked everyone who has been getting the vaccines. Allergy season is coming, symptoms of allergies and Covid are the same. Ed encouraged all to get vaccinated.
- c. **Curtis** – UTS swag merchandise, only 9 people ordered. The order was put in, but the long-sleeved black shirts are on backorder.
- d. **Jen Walsh** – nothing to report

6. Building News – Please start with positive news!

a. Manor

- i. Good News! Jamie Flannery returned from maternity leave!
- ii. Clubs are returning, but that will mix cohorts. Some kids from different classes will be traveling to new classrooms. If the clubs can mix cohorts, why can't the classes? The information about the clubs went out to the parents but was not relayed to the staff. Teachers are not even allowed into other rooms. If students are allowed to mix for the clubs, why can't they do it for specials? Also, it was mentioned that the club advisor positions were not posted. The district did not allow the staff to apply for club advisor positions. The administration picked the clubs that were running. Any teacher that ran a club in previous years, and would like to do it again, should email their principal about it and how they will do it during covid to make it safe. Matt, Maura, and Ed, we will bring up these issues at Central TAC.
- iii. Extra help needs to be examined. Parents are sending students to another teacher's class. Teachers are concerned that the administration will encourage students to attend other teacher's classes for extra help. It was never allowed in previous years, it should not be allowed now.
- iv. Some administrators have asked teachers to change their grades for students. This issue should be brought up to the building TAC. If it is a directive from the administrators, it should be in writing.

b. Harbor

- i. Good News! The clubs at the Harbor were posted. The clubs in the Harbor are a maximum of 10 students, and they are not mixing the cohorts. Desks will be wiped down, and the cohorts have split sessions with a max of 10 students per session.
- ii. No issues with grades or extra help in the Harbor.
- iii. Sub coverages are still a challenge.
- iv. Handicapped Parking is still an issue. The blue lines were painted on the spots, but there is no signage for handicapped parking yet. Is there any timeline? According to the ADA, there should be signage, and the passageway/spacing between the spots should also be there. The parking spaces are not meeting the bare minimum requirements. The slope can not be greater than a 1:12 ratio. It is not ADA compliant. The spaces in the front parking lot are larger than the handicapped parking in the back.
- v. Is Cuomo allowing for leave time for vaccinations? As of now, it is not allowed.

c. Middle school

- i. Good News! 15 days left for vacation. Middle school sports have calmed down.

d. High School

- i. Good News! 72 days left of school. We are turning back the clocks, more sunlight is coming our way. We are interviewing for a new Principal tomorrow. Matt, Christine Lindquist, and Suzanne Cosenza will be involved from the UTS for the interview committee.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Scott Gilbert -External PAC -Committee of 100 started a virtual meeting this year. The education budget is counting on federal money to balance the budget. Budget cuts may be looming in the future. Teacher centers are in the budget. The committee is working on a bill to suspend APPR this year. As part of that, they are also working on a path for tenure. The Committee is also trying to make sure that districts don't lose funding if they don't follow APPR. In the proposed state budget, leave time was included for vaccinations. The budget is working its way through the senate.
- b. The Seaford School Board, 1 seat up for election. If any UTS member would like to help out on the endorsement committee, please contact Matt or Scott Gilbert. VOTE cope has to have a stronger push this year. We didn't support it with COVID at the end of last year.

8. Special Ed Logs Any teacher who has more than 25 students and more than three preps should be allowed release time for logs. Ask your building Principal for release time.

9. GRIEVANCES – nothing right now.

10. NEGOTIATIONS- Matt, Ed, and Maura had their first session last week, and ground rules were established.

11. ARTS – There was a Zoom meeting last month and a lot of HS teachers joined from Florida. They plan to continue to do the zoom.

12. Member Concerns

- a. What is David Schlachter's position about the drug testing wording that was in our last contract? As of now, drug testing was not at the forefront of the contract discussions.
- b. Matt sent out the updated settlements with other districts. Building reps have that input please see them if you need it.
- c. NWEA reports were just sent out in the mail and parents are now contacting the teachers. Please advise parents to the Seaford Schools website, and they can see Dr. Leonie's presentation. Please be sensitive to what you put in writing. You can also refer the parents to Central Administration.
- d. If members are planning on traveling and you are fully vaccinated, and it more than two weeks after the second vaccination, you do not have to test or quarantine.
- e. The calendar for next year has been approved for next year. It is not on the school website yet.
- f. Ed made a motion to end the meeting. Maura seconded it. All approved.