

United Teachers of Seaford

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2021

Present:

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

Jean Marie Aplusille-
Ann-Marie Motisi-
Lisa Gagliano-

Kerry Hansen-
Suzanne Mooney-

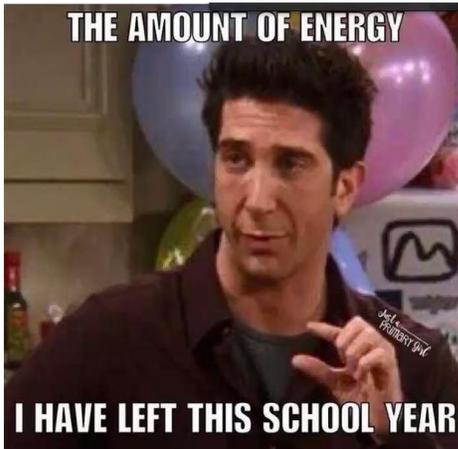
Eric Lichtwar-
Danielle Alveari-
Brian Horner-

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

Absent:

Roman Wojcik

1. Meme of the Month



2. RECORDING SECT'Y-Keri Degnan

a) Maura made a motion to approve the amended minutes of March 8, 2021, and Jen W made a motion to approve the amended minutes of March 18, 2021. All in favor.

3. TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR-Jen Wemssen

a) Deductions for union dues were taken out of the last two paychecks (for a total of 13 out of 16 dues deductions so far.) Only 3 more paychecks with union dues! We also made \$0.97 interest. One payment was made to NYSUT. We also paid the lawyer for the year and reimbursed for sympathy plants. Ed asked if we could explore investing a quarter of the UTS money into another type of account where we could make more in interest. Jen will look into options. Maura made a motion to accept the budget summary report. All in favor.

b) We have made donations to the Booster Club in the past. Usually, we donate in the form of an advertisement. Two years ago, we spent \$100. Last year the ad was digital, so it was only \$30. This year it is \$50. Ed made a motion to approve the

donation. All in favor.

c) Jen will be holding the budget meeting on Monday, April 26. It will be a 3:45 meeting on Zoom. Anyone interested can email Jen.

4. PRESIDENT-Matthew Adler

a) COVID update

- i. Dr. Pecora was able to get the vaccine on campus, two weeks before spring break. 140 staff members took advantage of the opportunity.
- ii. Juniors and Seniors are beginning to get vaccinated. The UTS is hoping the district will try to do a mass vaccination for the students who are willing.
- iii. On a positive note, the COVID numbers are trending downward. 20% of Long Islanders are fully vaccinated and 1/3 has at least one vaccine dose.
- iv. The High School will have all students back in class on April 19. The distance between desks has been decreased from 6 feet to 4 feet apart. That is a larger distance than the CDC recommends. Masks and barriers are still to be used.

b) State Budget

- i. The state passed its budget, it was a big win for education. 25 Billion for education!
- ii. Seaford will be getting an increase of 3 million dollars.
- iii. The state also approved a 3-year-old preschool program. We are not sure how the district will be able to do that. Space will be an issue.

c) In-person executive board meeting?

- i. Matt proposed the idea of bringing back in-person executive board meetings. Exec Board members would still have to wear a mask if meetings are held in person. After wearing a mask all day, to continue to wear it for several more hours after school is a lot. The Exec Board decided to remain on Zoom.

5. OFFICER REPORT

- a. **Maura** – Every day is a brand-new day, with more challenges are being thrown our way. Please reach out to the Exec Board for help and support if you need it.
- b. **Ed** – I like zoom meetings, the UTS has better attendance, and the meetings are quicker.
- c. **Curtis** – The UTS apparel was delivered. One ladies quarter zip in XL is still available. We can hold on to it and use it for a raffle in the future.
- d. **Jen Walsh** – Need to start talking about elections. The Exec Board positions of Recording Secretary, Vice President for Elementary Education, and Vice President for Secondary Education are up for election this spring. The following will be the timeline for this election:
 - Nomination forms will be sent out on May 19.
 - Nomination forms should be returned by May 26.
 - The election will be held on June 3 and will be conducted through the site Election Runner.

Building Rep elections will be held in June. The following will be the timeline for this election:

- Nomination forms will be sent out on June 7.
- Nomination forms should be returned on June 14.
- The election will be held on June 16 and will be conducted through the site Election Runner.

Jen Walsh asked if our subscription for Election Runner still good from last year. Curtis will find out when the subscription runs out.

6. Building News – Please start with positive news!

a. Manor

- i. Good News! AnnMarie Motisi's daughter got engaged, and Andrea Provenzano is retiring! Congratulations to her, she has been such an asset and a friend.
- ii. Teachers were asked to participate in an RTI committee, it has been mixed messages with some teachers volunteering and some people were “volun-told.” Teachers were not also told of the details of the committee, meetings were initially held at 8:15 am and it may be more than they bargained for. Teachers have the right to say it is too much and withdraw from the committee. Teachers were set up for a released time, ask Jeannie Apulstille for more details.

b. Harbor

- i. Teachers are being told to pack up their classrooms, due to upcoming work on the ceilings. There will be limited availability to the building during the process. The library has to pack up 20,000 books. There will be a week of coverage with two aids to work on in the library. The boxes will be provided by the district. The boxes should be ordered soon.
- ii. The art room must be packed up as well and organized in a way to make it easier to put back. The art teacher asked for support and is not being given any. The administration has talked to Curtis, and the art teachers will be given 2-3 days of coverage for the task.
- iii. Custodians put out cones to save their parking spots when they go out to lunch. The handicapped parking issue is still been a dragged out ALL YEAR. It is shameful the way this has been going on. The district building and grounds should be ashamed of themselves for the treatment of people with disabilities. Matt will set up a meeting with Shinika, Kerry, and Suzanne next week to discuss further action.
- iv. Could teachers see the results of the contract survey? In years past, we have never released the results of surveys to the general members. We would not allow that information to get out to the opposing counsel.

c. Middle school

- i. Good News! Sara Frank (MS Guidance) was married!! Congratulations! Students are happy clubs and sports are back. A good percentage of middle school students are coming back for the fourth quarter.
- ii. There was an issue of coverages, there were a very large number of people out, and a limited number of people to cover classes. Special ed teachers were not being covered, but it was only a one-day occurrence.
- iii. A few people would like to hear some improved communication from central.

d. High School –

- i. We have a new principal, Nicole Schnabel. Congratulations to her. We need three members to participate in the committee on Monday to replace her old position.

- ii. AP prep is underway.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Scott Gilbert -External PAC

- i. **Vote-Cope** -Scott is working with Ed for the donation drive. They are in the process of preparing the Vote-Cope statements. We need to make up for our lack of participation last year. This is the year to increase your contribution. The money teachers donated in the past, we got back with the state/federal budget.
- ii. **Budget Vote**- The Seaford School District is going to adopt a budget in two weeks. The district got a windfall of money from the state. Would the UTS like to do a mailing in support of the district budget? We can get voter participation records of previous elections. Curtis will magic and create a postcard. Ed made a motion to spend up to \$3500 for a “get out and vote” postcard. All in favor
- iii. Does the high school still register the graduating seniors to vote? It has been done in the past, Joanna will check with the Social Studies department and find out.

b. Public Relations/Event Planning

- i. **End of the Year Party**- A discussion occurred about what to do for the retirees this year. UTS volunteers are needed for party planning for a half stipend of \$358.50 for up to four people. They will survey members on what type of party people are comfortable attending? The party planning committee will also reach out to last year’s retirees to invite them.

8. GRIEVANCES – Nothing right now.

9. NEGOTIATIONS- Matt, Ed, and Maura reached out to the exec board for input two weeks ago. It helped and give them clarity. Matt, Ed, and Maura also exchanged proposals with Central last week.

10. ARTS – Medicare reimbursement is still in the state budget. Retirees Vote-Cope contribution goes into Seaford's UTS donation values. NYSUT sent out Vote-Cope reminders for the retirees. The 9-11 dinner is still on. Invites are being sent out in waves. They are hoping the state will lift the 150 person limit on indoor events. The dinner is planned for Tuesday, June 29. The venue is saying attendees need to show either proof of vaccination, or proof of a negative PCR test within 72 hours of the event, or a negative rapid test within 6 hours of the event.

11. Member Concerns

- a. None!
- b. There was such a positive experience at the football game, Matt was so excited to watch the halftime show. The smiles and the faces of the members of the band made his day. If the music department is performing, it has been a collaborative effort. The music department had such difficulties this year with the restrictions, rules, and not being able to play together, it was wonderful to watch.
- c. Maura made a motion to end the meeting. Ann Marie seconded it. All approved.