



United Teachers of Seaford

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2022

Present:

Absent:

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

Jean Marie Aplustille
Lisa Doris
Ann-Marie Motisi

Suzanne Mooney
Kerry Hansen
Maureen Sabella

Danielle Alveari
Brian Horner
Michael Milano

Christine Lindquist
Joanna McCloskey
James Scourtos
Mary Simons

1. Meme of the Month

You know 10 years from now there is going to be a standardized test with a math problem that says " If Matt was exposed to Covid on Tuesday and had no symptoms four days later and he got it from Susie who caught it at a party three days before Matt and tested positive five days later, how likely is Matt's little brother going to test positive on an antigen test if he tests two days after Matt tests positive?"

2. RECORDING SECT'Y-Keri Degnan

a) Danielle made a motion to approve the amended minutes of January 10, 2022. Maura seconded the motion. All in favor.

3. TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR-Jen Wemssen

a) Jen received two letters from the American Legion and Seaford Wellness Council thanking the UTS for their donations. The Seaford Wellness Council letter was very appreciative of the UTS's support.
b) There have been two more membership dues deductions since the last meeting (this is 9 out of 16 deductions.) A donation was made to both the HS and MS drama clubs for ads. Maura made a motion to approve the budget summary. Keri seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. PRESIDENT-Matthew Adler

- a) **Covid Update** -Hopefully soon we can stop giving updates. The numbers are going down, this is a good sign for the spring.
- b) **School Calendar for 2022-2023**- We are starting before Labor Day, due to more holidays on the federal calendar. We still have a long break for Memorial Day.
- c) **Long Island Presidents' Council Meeting**
 - i. Maura and Matt both attended the meeting. Matt complimented Maura for her professionalism. It was a very successful weekend talking to the other presidents. The issues Seaford is facing are being felt across the island. A quote from the weekend; "*There is no such thing as the good old days, the better days are ahead of us.*"
 - ii. There was a presentation from NYSTRS about our pension system. It was a great presentation, and on March 16 at 4:30 pm members will have the opportunity see the same presentation. Matt and Maura highly recommend that all members attend, it is a virtual meeting. If your spouse is available, they may attend.
 - iii. Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund also had a presentation. There is money available in the form of a burial award, service grant, covid support, and a scholarship for members' children graduating high school. Apply, it is free money if you are selected for it. The information will be on the UTS website.
 - iv. On Saturday, March 5, NYSUT will have a pre-retirement seminar. Space is limited, so let Matt know ASAP if you want to attend.
 - v. All members should create or go into their MYNYSTRS account. There is a lot of useful information.
- d) Matt attended the faculty meeting with Manor teachers who are very upset about not being able to access Nearpod and Youtube. Matt spoke to Tom Lynch, and he is looking into a way to solve the issue. On teachers' computers, Nearpod and Youtube are not blocked. It is blocked on the student devices. If they want Youtube to be unblocked, it is something that the elementary schools will have to decide together. There will be an upcoming training session about Nearpod, Youtube, and Classwise.

5. Masks on Masks off – Massapequa filed a lawsuit with the supreme court. It was upheld. A second case went to the county court, it stated the governor overextended her powers. The Attorney General filed an appeal. The appellate

court will look at the case, the stay is expected to last until March 2. What does this mean for us in schools? The masks must remain in schools and the superintendents and the school districts must follow the law. If the district does not follow, the state has the right to come in and remove the school board members. This is getting messy in the political realm. Stay above the fray, just follow the rules.

6. OFFICER REPORTS

- a) **Maura-** The Presidents Council Weekend was very meaningful. Every day is a new day, thank you for taking care of each other and being a great addition to the Seaford community.
- b) **Ed** –The retirement party is being planned, stay tuned for further details.
- c) **Curtis** – UTS apparel has been handed out. If anyone still needs a shirt, let Curtis know. We will also see about giving the new teachers from last year, a free shirt. The branding of the UTS is a good thing, we have a logo. Other districts are jealous of it! Thanks to Curtis for creating it.
- d) **Jen Walsh**-Jen is feeling better!

6. Building News – Please start with positive news!

a) Manor Head Building Rep-Jean Aplustille-

- i. **Good news!** A lot of our members' babies are all growing up and applying to colleges and getting accepted. Good stuff!!
- ii. Are the teachers in the Manor and the Harbor going to be responsible for the curriculum fair? This is typically held on the evening of the budget vote. Last year, the corridors were closed off, but now it is on the PTA website. Teachers have been sending home student projects. In the past teachers have held on to projects to make the curriculum fair beautiful. There is also a special person/child evening on April 8 and April 12. Each elementary school is holding this event in the evening. The PTA has put this information out, if they are opening the schools for this evening, then curriculum night may be on. Matt will find out if the curriculum night will be in person this year.
- iii. The Harbor School has been told that the rugs were destroyed because of water damage in the pod. The rugs need to be replaced. This is needed to be included for budgeting for next year. What if other items were destroyed in the Pods, will that be reimbursed as well? It will be discussed at central TAC.
- iv. There was an email in the Harbor that starting Thursday that all classes will be allowed to go into the cafeteria for lunch. The Manor has not been notified. Maura will follow up. Teachers on the RTI Committee are being told they will be the contact person and they will have to make a presentation. We are working with an expired contract. Teachers must start saying no. When it is brought up to Central TAC, the response is “they volunteered.” That is not correct, the untenured staff is being “voluntold” to do the work. Directors are asking members to come back to the building at night for the curriculum fair. This is a big imposition on members. The district got rid of the chairperson positions and hired directors instead. Do not do the director’s job. The change will come when the teachers say no.
- v. Some members were confused with the changing of the days we wear colors. In the community we teach in, there are a lot of first responders, and many of our members have spouses who are also first responders. With the tragic loss of two young police officers, we showed support for other union members. There are things bigger than our contract. We have told the PTA why we are wearing Green on Fridays and Black on Wednesdays, and why our members may not participate in their events in the future with the wearing color. In the future, tenured teachers should email the Directors, flood them with the emails, and take the pressure away from the untenured members.
- vi. The Manor teachers feel they have been thrown under the bus with the masks. Some parents have been very aggressive, and the administration is allowing the teachers to take the brunt of the abuse. At Central TAC, building principals have been told to enforce the mask rules. Aides have been told that they are not to enforce the masks and confront the students, and the teachers were instructed to “just teach.”

b) Harbor Head Building Rep-Suzanne Mooney

- i. We want the furniture back and the copier back, but there has been no answer as to when that will happen.

c) Middle school-Head Building Rep-Danielle Alveari

- i. Good News! Dr. Dunn is moving to Valley Stream, Jen Bisulca is moving to the Middle school. Teachers are hoping for good things.

d) High school Head Building Rep-Christine Lindquist

- i. Good News! Jen Bisulca is leaving the HS, and the staff wishes her well. We are getting a new Assistant Principal Mr. Anthony Murray from Bethpage. We wish him good luck in the position.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a) PAC – Scott Gilbert

- i. The interview committee met with Kevin Devlin and interviewed him for a long while. He has been a friend to the UTS and understands the lack of communication. By a unanimous vote, the committee will recommend that the UTS endorse Kevin Devin for reelection to the Seaford School Board.
- ii. As a union, do we have to endorse anyone? We have endorsed people in the past, which has not always worked out well. This is a year to support the school boards, they are under attack. Having our support, lets the district know we respect them. Some school board candidates in other districts are getting funding from outside groups to push their agenda. Kevin sees the big picture and has a great understanding of how things work in Seaford. A question period to the general membership was opened up to question to the committee. There were no questions. Keri made a motion to endorse Kevin Devin for the School Board. Danielle seconded the motion. 1 member opposed, the rest approved, no one abstained.
- iii. Ed made a motion to fund Kevin Devin's campaign up to \$4,000. The UTS will get back half of that value back from Vote Cope money. NYSUT is upping the amount they are adding to locals to help fund local elections. The money will not be coming directly from our funds. Danielle seconded the motion. A discussion was initiated by Jen Wemssen on how we need to be very conservative with our money. We have a very tight budget. We have only \$3,000 to payout. Questions from executive board members were
 1. What have we paid in the past to help school board elections? Last time in 2018 we donated \$1,000.
 2. Can we promote Kevin through social media?
 3. Are other people are running against him? Herbert has been flagged by NYSUT, she is running against Kevin Devlin. DeStafano is another potential candidate. April 13 is the deadline to get the paperwork in. Matt will ask NYSUT to find out who is running.
 4. Jen feels that if we back two school board members, we should give an equal amount. Can we lower the amount to compromise? \$4,000 is what was needed to send out a mailing to every house in Seaford. Could do an "all in one flier," a mailing to get out the vote and include the candidate names on it? Can put a limit of over \$1,000 would require executive board approval? Ed's motion to fund Kevin Devin's campaign up to \$4,000 did not pass. 6 yes 13 No.
 5. Social media doesn't get people out to vote. Mailers may be a waste, people have about 5 seconds to get their attention before they throw it out. It needs to be a simple image, and Curtis has done a great job in the past. The best way to get out the candidate's message is one on one personal connection, going door to door talking to people. Lawn signs don't do much, but they do get the candidate's name out there. We don't know what the opponents are going to do, or what they are going to spend.
 6. Exec board members asked Jen as the UTS treasurer, what donation would she be comfortable allocating? The UTS doesn't have to fund an entire campaign. It is the candidates' responsibility to fundraise on their own or pay out of pocket. We are not here to fully fund any candidate's campaign. Jen stated that she would feel comfortable with an expense of \$2,000. Ed made a motion to spend up to a \$2,000 campaign. James Seconded it. Ed and Matt have been saying good things for 3 years of Kevin's support of the UTS. We supported him before. We need to be smart about the money. Would it be more comfortable to reach out to Kevin and find out how he wants to utilize the UTS? We can find out what is he expecting from us? 18 Yes one did not vote. Ed's motion passed.

8. GRIEVANCES – none

9. NEGOTIATIONS-

- a) **Mediation**-The next meeting is 3/1. At the last meeting, there was some movement in a positive direction. It is the most positive that Matt has been in a year.
- b) **Picketing** – Adele heard a rumor about picketing. She was told it depended on how the mediation meeting went. Matt would like to move the day of the picketing from 2/16 to 3/9 because there has been positive movement with the mediation.

10. ARTS – The retirement group has a logo for Retiree apparel. *All active members are retiree members in training.* Don't forget the preretirement meeting in March!

Vote Cope – Barbara's goal is to have the new retirees donate a few dollars per paycheck right when they retire. The retirees increased their scholarships to the high school and the middle school.

The next retiree meeting is on the first Tuesday in March. Matt would like to attend and thanked Barbara for all that you do.

11. MEMBER CONCERNS – A member suggested they would like to see a parent speak on our behalf. Seaford will not allow non-community members to speak. Seaford is not the only district that does this, there is no way to change the rule.

March 7 is our next meeting. We are almost at Feb Break, keep up the great work. It is going to get better, there are some good times ahead. Maura made a motion to end the meeting. Jeannie seconded it. All in favor. Keep up wearing green on Friday! The Sea of Green was great!