



United Teachers of Seaford

# Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023

Present:

Absent:

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

Jean Marie Aplustille  
Lisa Doris  
Ann-Marie Motisi  
  
Suzanne Mooney  
Maureen Sabella

Brian Horner  
Alex Mantay  
  
Rosalie Franz  
Christine Lindquist  
Joanna McCloskey  
James Scourtos

Jen Bartkowski  
Michael Milano  
Kerry Hansen

## 1. Meme of the Month

I don't know who needs  
to hear this but guess  
what teachers?

WE MADE IT THROUGH  
THE FIRST HALF OF  
THE SCHOOL YEAR!



hugely success! We had a great turnout from all four buildings. We will try to plan something similar for the Spring. The total cost was \$740 including tip. Even though we were approved to spend up to \$200 on food, we only spent \$56 on it. Thanks to all for attending!

Second, the UTS Retirement Party has been booked at The Mansion at Oyster Bay for Thursday, June 15, 2023. The contract has been signed and we put down the deposit. We have heard from 4 retirees from 3 buildings, so we're hoping for a good turnout. Prices have all gone up since the last party we had pre-Covid, so we're anticipating tickets being \$95-\$100 per person. This price includes an open bar and gifts for retirees. Curtis, we were wondering if you could make some kind of "Save The Date" to send out to the membership and administration in the next month? We will reach out to you in the next week or so to get your thoughts.

## 3. TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR-Jen Wemssen

- a) In terms of the most recent summary report. There have been two dues deductions since the last meeting. \$1000 was paid for the down payment for the retirement party. We also paid for the mailing of the holiday cards. Dues are \$1260 for the year 2021-2022. 6 members asked for reimbursement for the Hot Chocolate Run, and we paid the retainer for the lawyer.
- b) The total for the Happy Hour was \$920. This included the flier which was printed in color, the drinks, and the food. We have a very tight budget, perhaps in the future we only pay for food, not drinks. We should also send out digital fliers in the future.
- c) A discussion to place to reduce wasteful spending on in-person meetings.
- d) Maura motioned to accept the treasurer report, Ed seconded it. All in favor

## 4. PRESIDENT-Matthew Adler

- a) **2022-23 school calendar**-Matt met with Central. The calendar for 2023-2024 should be approved tonight. There will be two spring holiday breaks due to the separation of Easter and Passover.
- b) **Building visits**-Matt would like to visit each of the buildings to get a sense to talk to members. Building Reps, please tell the members at your next union meeting.
  - i. Middle School Visit – Monday, Feb 6 from 12 pm-2 pm
  - ii. Harbor School Visit – Wednesday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm-3 pm

## 2. SECT'Y-Keri Degnan

a) James made a motion to approve the amended minutes of December 7, 2022. Maura seconded the motion. All in favor.

b) Keri presented for Jen Bartkowski who was absent.

- i. The next meeting for the Constitution and By-Laws Committee will be on Wednesday, January 18, at 3:45 in the High School Faculty Room. If you are on the exec board, please look over your position requirements. Jen requests that you give her feedback on changes you might like to see in your job description, that would be greatly appreciated.
- ii. Public Relations Committee updates: Margaret and Jen have two items to share. First, the UTS Happy Hour at the Irish Poet was a

- iii. Manor School Visit – Wednesday, Feb 15<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm
- c) We are still entitled to Covid days. It is still on the NYS website. If you hear of a member getting rejected with Covid days let Matt, Maura, or Ed know.
- d) We are using the app Groupme for the Exec Board to communicate. The plan is to try it with the small group first, if it works well, we will then open it up to the general membership.
- e) There is a Central TAC meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. OFFICER REPORTS

- a) **Maura**- Happy New Year to everyone!
- b) **Ed** –Happy New Year. I went to an NYSUT meeting about paid parental family leave. It would prevent districts from using sick days for family leave. It would make it more equitable for seniority and family leaves. There is a moral issue of maternity leaves and sick banks. The limitations are the district controls those decisions and not the UTS. Some districts have had language put in the contracts of what a family is. In our contract, we only get credit for up to 100 sick days, and then we get paid for up to 50. The limitations hurt the younger teachers.
- c) **Curtis**- A survey was sent out about preferences on UTS wear, and there were a few surprises! I will send out an order form.

## 6. Building News – Please start with positive news!

- a) **Manor Head Building Rep-Jean Aplustille-**
  - i. Good news! Happy New Year! The only concern that was presented was about the BOE and the sick day bank. Members would like that aired publicly. That is a slippery slope, as a union do we have the right to air personal issues in a public forum? We need the language in the contract next time. We are disheartened.
- b) **Harbor Head Building Rep-Suzanne Mooney**
  - i. Good news! Not much going on, it is pretty boring.
- c) **Middle school-Head Building Rep-Brian Horner**
  - i. Good News! Mike Flynn announced his retirement. Congratulations to him! There is a wave of pregnancies in middle school. Maternity leaves will start in May and June.
- d) **High school Head Building Rep-Christine Lindquist**
  - i. Good News! There has been a conversation with secretaries overstepping their boundaries. There is also a problem with the observations of the new staff, we have a UTS meeting on Friday to discuss it. Everyone in our administration is being equitable, but there is a difference stylistically of what are they looking for between the administrator who observes you. It must be fair. There have been conversations with our administration about boosting morale. Some untenured teachers need to improve their effort.
  - ii. 5 days for Mid Terms is CRAZY!! The administration of exams will require more time proctoring, and grading in groups will be difficult to coordinate.

## 7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. **PAC – Scott Gilbert** – The NYSUT Committee of 100 will be in person (first time since Covid) and we go up to Albany to lobby. The goal is to work on Tier Equity. It will change, but it will take time.
- b. **Internal PAC Joanna McCloskey** –
- c. **Constitution** – Text meeting on Jan 18 to update it. Jen emailed the constitution out.

## 8. GRIEVANCES – none

## 9. NEGOTIATIONS- none

## 10. ARTS-Barbara not present

## 11. MEMBER CONCERNS –

There was an email to check out the email from Chelsea Bianco to inform the staff about being reimbursed for copay and eyeglasses by March 15. A discussion occurred about family dental and spouses, but the trust fund needs to wait until the trust fund gets its money. There is a lag of an entire year for payment to the trust fund. What is being expected from the trust fund reps is huge. We can't look into changes in the benefits until we receive the funds. We need to investigate changing the bylaws and look into other plans. There is a lot that needs to go into the change. We may also need to investigate more people to help run the trust fund and perhaps get more compensation for the trust fund reps. We appreciate all the hard work Ann Marie and Chelsea have put into it.

Hope everyone had a nice end of the year and holiday break. We do have 3 snow days in the current calendar, if we have a 4<sup>th</sup> snow day it would remove April 6 as a day off, then April 2nd if there is another snow day after that

**Next meeting Feb 1<sup>st</sup> at the Manor at 3:45 pm.**