



United Teachers of Seaford

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2022

Present:

Absent:

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

Jean Marie Aplustille-
Lisa Doris-
Ann-Marie Motisi-

Suzanne Mooney-
Lisa Gagliano-
Kerry Hansen-
Maureen Sabella-

Danielle Alveari-
Brian Horner-
Michael Milano-

Christine Lindquist-
James Scourtos-
Mary Simons-

Joanna
McCloskey
Jen Walsh

1. **RECORDING SECT'Y-Keri Degnan** There were no minutes from the last meeting, the UTS board went into executive session.
2. **TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP CHAIR-Jen Wemssen** There have been a few dues deductions from members' paychecks, and the UTS paid our dues to NYSUT. We also paid a bill for upcoming conferences (L.I. President's Conference at Montauk.) Membership dues total for 2021 taxes is \$1218.
Maura made a motion to accept the Treasurer Report. James seconded it. All in favor
3. **PRESIDENT-Matthew Adler**
 - a) **Covid Update**
 - i. **Increase in the number of cases-** It has been a roller coaster of a week with an increase in COVID cases from the holiday break. The experts are saying we are now beginning to see a downward trend for the past two days. We seem to be getting past the peak.
 - ii. **Return to work** – From the Nassau County Department of Health; for you to return to work after being fully vaccinated (not including booster) you must be asymptomatic, have mild symptoms, and have no fever. You must wear a medical-grade mask when you return to work for two weeks. If you are still have a cough and symptoms – stay home. For those staff members who tested with the district's ATC company, they were backlogged and there was a delay in the results. Teachers were not allowed to come to work without the test. Matt told the administration it was not their fault if they did not get the results, they should not be forced to use a sick day. If an administrator tells you to stay home, you should not be docked a sick day. If you do get docked, let Matt know.
 - iii. **Testing-** If you use an at-home test and the results are positive, tell the district. You should then get a PCR test. Isolation starts on the first day of symptoms. You should stay home, as long as you get a PCR test within 24 hours. If you wait, you are opening yourself up for being docked sick days. Testing will now be on Tuesdays and the cutoff is 4 pm. It is very difficult for the Harbor teachers to get to the High School by that time. Can the district please extend the time?
 - iv. **Mask mandate-**The schools are following the state guidelines. The state rules over the county.
 - b) **Paper/Toner shortage** – Matt, Maura, Ed, along with the building reps have spent a huge amount of hours talking with the administration. The district has paper and toner. Other districts are not having this issue. Please talk to the building principals about the copy machines.
 - c) **Snow days-**We have 3 snow days built in our school calendar. We do not begin to take days from the school calendar until the 4th snow day. We still have our snowflake day.
 - d) **Governor's announcement of new investment in New York's students, teachers, and schools-** Governor Hochul's in the State of the State address announced her investment in schools, teachers, and students. There will be an increase in funding for k-12 education and addressing the teacher shortage. We should see a good state aid package.
4. **OFFICER REPORTS**
 - a) **Maura-** Happy New Year, we hope you enjoyed the week with family and friends. There have been issues with extra help in the elementary schools. Parents are reaching out after 12:00 pm to request extra help for that day. Staff may have planned for other students to stay on that day. Can this issue be addressed with the

administration? There should be consistency among the buildings. If a parental request is sent after 9:00 am you may not be able to accommodate it. If parents are requesting a morning AM extra help, it should be sent the day before. Teachers need the opportunity to prepare. Maura will talk to the administration in the Manor to address it. Maura is grateful everyone is happy and healthy.

- b) **Ed** –Covid is everywhere in the High School, copies are a mess. Welcome to the new year.
- c) **Curtis**- the regular UTS order is complete except for the quarter zip is back-ordered.
- d) **Jen Walsh**-not present

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

a) **Manor Head Building Rep-Jean Aplustille-**

- i. Good news! Megan Hunt and Lisa Perone both participated in the John Theissen toy drive, and they did an outdoor singalong. It was so nice!
- ii. A member was out with covid and was given three different return dates. There was much confusion!! The copy machine issue has been frustrating. Teachers have been given little to no time to put together lessons for students who are at home due to COVID. AESOP's ability to distinguish bereavement was questioned. It is uncomfortable for members to get questioned by the secretaries about who died in the family. AESOP needs a dropdown menu to differentiate between the categories (immediate or extended family.)

b) **Harbor Head Building Rep-Suzanne Mooney**

- i. Members were concerned about a letter that the central administration has sent out about teaching if you find out you have COVID. If you test positive for COVID, you are not obligated to teach from home. Take care of yourself and get better.

c) **Middle school-Head Building Rep-Danielle Alveari**

- i. The biggest challenge is the lack of a copy machine from the library. The frustration level is very high among the members. We are about to start year three of working during the pandemic. Everyone is working and stepping up for the best situation for the students. Matt will attend the next faculty meeting at the Middle School to talk to members.

d) **High school Head Building Rep-Christine Lindquist**

- i. There is a large level of frustration among members with the cancelation of midterms. Teachers were blindsided and were creating exams, and many had already started reviewing. Students knew before the staff. It will be addressed at the next building TAC. Teachers must develop a whole week of lessons, and this created more work for many.
- ii. The directors are inequitable with the amount of work they are asking the liaisons to complete. There is frustration between the department liaisons. Building Reps will talk to former lead teachers and current liaisons about what they do in the positions. They want to make the work equitable.
- iii. A member of the High School has tested positive for COVID twice. She has already used her 10 COVID days. According to the LRS of NYSUT, staff should be allowed to use COVID days up to three times for 14 days (not including the weekend.)

7. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- a. **PAC** –Bruce Kahn and Kevin Devlin are both up for election. Kevin is looking to get an endorsement from the UTS again. Two other community members picked up packets to run. Scott and Joanna would like to have a committee to interview potential candidates and then give a UTS endorsement. We should also interview Kevin as well for an endorsement. Both Matt and Ed feel he has been an ally during negotiations and has been supportive of the UTS. We would like to be able to give an early endorsement of Kevin by Feb. The screening committee will interview all community members who may run. The UTS does not have to give any endorsements if the committee doesn't approve the candidates. If Kevin wins, he keeps his seat. If any other the other two win, they will fill Bruce Kahn's seat and will start immediately. Scott and Joanna will work on putting a committee together.
- b. **Public Relations/Event Planning**– We need to start building for a retirement party and give people something to look forward to, we need it to improve morale. Ed will talk to Julie and Sara to start picking a place and get moving.

8. **GRIEVANCES – none**

9. **NEGOTIATIONS**

- a. **Collective Action**- There has been one mediation session, we have another planned on Jan 31.
 - i. The plan for the UTS members is to wear black on Wednesday. If you have the old black "Union Strong" or "Contract Now" shirts, please wear those on Wednesday.

- ii. Green should be worn on Fridays.
- iii. Be prepared to start picketing at the Board of Ed meeting on Feb 16th. Bring your family, get a babysitter, wear warm clothes. Neighbors and the community will see. We have the signs ready to go in the High School. If an untenured teacher doesn't want to picket, they don't have to. If they want to, they are more than welcome to.
- iv. Please wear the buttons every day.
- v. Curtis will send out a survey will be sent out to members to see how many people need a shirt. Union Strong shirt so we all look consistent.

10. ARTS

11. MEMBER CONCERNS – Observations have been returned very late. Maybe Matt can reach out to the administration. If an observation write-up is returned very late (more than 30 days) it can not be used against the member.

Thank you, everyone, we have a good stretch until the February break. Hang in there, we do have a lot of positive things going on. The kids are starting to be kids again. Remember why we got into education. Keep up wearing green on Friday! The Sea of Green was great!

Maura made a motion to end the meeting. Mary seconded it. All in favor.