



# Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2020 – Zoom Meeting

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Present:

Margaret Glancy  
Edward Kent  
Maura Coghlan  
Jennifer Wemssen  
Curtis Tripoli  
Keri Degnan  
Jen Walsh

Jean Marie Aplustille  
Lisa Gagliano  
Ann-Marie Motisi  
  
Charlotte Loake  
Laura Liepa  
Suzanne Mooney  
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Brian Horner  
Eric Lichtwar

Matthew Adler  
Christine Lindquist  
Joanna McCloskey  
James Scourtos

Absent:

Danielle Alveari

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## 1) Introduction from Margaret

- a. Matt made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose to discuss prior meeting minutes, financial planning, officer elections, retirees – All in favor
- b. Matt made a motion to leave executive session – All in Favor

## 2) Recording Secretary: Keri Degnan

- a. Jean Marie made a motion to accept the minutes from Jan 27, March 31, April 2 and April 17. All in Favor

## 3) President: Margaret Glancy

### a. Follow up: PPS Logs

1. There were multiple conversations between administration and Margaret to communicate the concerns of our PPS members regarding the PPS log expectations. Thank you to all members who helped move this issue to completion.

### b. Follow up: Change in Continuity of Learning Plan/Live Instruction

1. A letter to parents was sent out on May 14 indicating the change in remote learning to live instruction. Central Administration expressed that they received complaints from the community requesting a change in remote instruction.

### c. Follow Up: Budgetary Concerns for Upcoming School Year

1. Governor Cuomo indicated he may be cutting up to 20% of the state aid going to the schools.
2. Every district is relying on the Heroes Act in the Senate. The federal government will help make up the difference in the state aid budget.
3. Governor Cuomo discussed rolling budget cuts in the future on June 30 and Dec 31. Even if the current district budget passes, there still may be cuts as the year goes on.
4. In the current financial crisis and with absentee ballots, there is some concern about whether or not the budget will pass.
5. Elections matter; the UTS urges our members to pay attention to the news.

#### 4) Officer Reports

##### a. Jen Walsh: Elections

###### 1. Officer Elections

- (a) Since we are not in the building, we will need to use an alternate format to conduct elections. Jen Wemssen made a motion to use an online platform to run officer elections and building rep elections for this year – All in favor.
- (b) The following officer positions are up for election: President, Treasurer/Membership Chair, Administration Secretary, and Parliamentarian
- (c) Timeline of the Officer Election:
  - (i) Jen Walsh will send out an email for asking for nominations by Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - (ii) Nomination forms are due back by Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - (iii) If the officer positions are contested, a candidate forum will occur through Zoom on Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>. Candidates can also submit a candidate statement which will be distributed in a UTS newsletter.
  - (iv) Election will occur on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

###### 2. Building Rep Election

- (a) Building rep elections will take after officer elections are completed
- (b) Timeline of the Building Rep Election:
  - (i) Jen Walsh will send out an email for nominations for the building rep positions on Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - (ii) Nomination forms are due back by Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - (iii) If the building rep positions are contested, a candidate forum will occur through Zoom on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Candidates can also submit a candidate statement which will be distributed in a UTS newsletter.
  - (iv) Election will occur on Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup>

#### 5) Building Reports/Member Concerns

- a. **Stipends** – Members have asked for an update regarding the status of club stipends. The coaches received their modified stipend Friday. Hopefully, club advisors will get receive their stipends soon.
- b. **Personal Days** – If you need to take a personal day, you need to inform the parents you will be unavailable. You also need to put the day in AESOP.
- c. **Guidance Counselors** – The Guidance Department normally works 10 additional days during the summer. There is flexibility on when they take the days. They are concerned, due to the unknown changes for next year, that they might be expected to do more.
- d. **Elementary Staffing** – Members are concerned about when they will receive next year’s teaching assignments and if this will allow time to move rooms within the building. The UTS contract states members should be receive next year’s assignments by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- e. **Reopening Task Force**
  - 1. At the last school board meeting, Dr. Pecora mentioned forming a Reopening Task Force. At this time, a survey has been distributed to the community. Members are concerned that this was not also distributed to the teachers. There are many members of the UTS that will like to apply to be a part of the Task Force.
    - a. UTS members that are a part of the Task Force should be willing to have meeting to get input from the rest of the membership.
    - b. Members are encouraged to email Dr. Pecora, John Striffolino, and Margaret if they wish to be a part of the Reopening Task Force.
  - 2. Many members have expressed concerns regarding the lack of communication and delayed communication by Central Administration to the members of the UTS. It is frustrating that the parents are made aware of changes in the district before we are. The membership would like to see an improvement in the level of communication from Central Administration.
  - 3. Conversations between Central Administration and the faculty needs to be improved.

f. **Live Teaching**

1. At the last board meeting, BOE member Andrea Parisi asked if the teachers had the capacity to have the live instruction recorded. Mr. Strifolino, Dr. Pecora, and Mr. Lynch said that was not the idea of live instruction.
2. If the live teaching continues into the fall, are there going to be cameras in the classroom? Members have many concerns about live teaching being recorded.
3. Members want Central Administration to be aware of the difficulties that occur when teaching from home and live teaching, especially for the members with young children.
4. Matt reminded the membership that many of the issues/changes discussed with regards to next year will have to be negotiated.

g. **Access to Classrooms**

1. Members are concerned about the inconsistency in that amount of time that teachers were given in their classrooms. Elementary teachers only had a half hour in their rooms, and the HS teachers had 1.5 hours.
2. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, elementary teachers have been asked to pack up their student's belongings. This will be done with the assistance of an aide. Some teachers are uncomfortable with having an additional person in the room. The teachers would like to have a day for themselves, and another day for the aide to pack up the student's belongings. Additionally, teachers should not be expected to teach on the day they are packing up.

h. **Report Cards** – Elementary teachers are concerned about the amount of comments that they are expected to make on report cards.

i. **Concerns about the 2020-2021 School Year**

1. There are some concerns about members who may not feel comfortable or may not be able to return to the building due to their own health issues.
2. There are concerns about potential budget cuts and how this may impact the members of the UTS.

**6) PAC: Political Action and the Budget Vote**

- a. We need to consider whether or not a GOTV postcard is feasible, at this time. We will need to see if the printer is available. If we are able to send a card, Curtis will design a postcard supporting public education.
- b. We could use social media to help remind the community to vote for the budget. Curtis can design something that the membership can share on social media.
- c. There are three people running for two positions on the School Board. Incumbents Natalie Pedisich and Stacie Stark, and Robert Zafonte. Ed made a motion to form a committee to interview all three potential board members. Lisa Gagliano seconded the motion. 13 yes, 3 no, 1 abstention. Motion passed.
- d. Ed reminded members there is a lawyer search committee meeting on Thursday evening.

Jen Wemssen made a motion to end the meeting, Maura seconded. All in favor.