

# Connetquot Teachers Association, Inc.

1650 Sycamore Avenue Suite #8  
Bohemia, New York 11716

Tony Felicio, Jr.  
President

OFFICE: (631) 676-3061  
FAX: (631) 676-5364

**MINUTES OF THE:** Connetquot Teachers Association Board of Directors Meeting of Tuesday, September 13, 2022

## **PRESENT:**

Tony Felicio, Jr., Brad Lindell, Chris Dolce, Ellen Perz, Rob Bachisin, Jeff Vitale, Lisa Manzo, Kevin Keane, Christine Dassler, Leslie Sewell, Rob Burger, Shannon Lehnert, Frank Saladino, Diane Boyle, Nichole Johnson, Stefanie Litchult, Beth Caiola, Gina Cerulli, Diane Boccio, Jennifer Ronayne, Paul Rondinella

## **ABSENT:**

Joanna Zalewski, Anita Ekstem, Rob Lehnert, Christine Constantine, Charlie Hafner, John Zambriski

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm

## **MOTIONS:**

**Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report 4:16 pm**

- Motion made by Chris Dolce and seconded by Christine Dassler approve the June, July, and August '22 Treasurer's Report: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion to Approve Retirement Party Cover Charges 6:07 pm**

- Motion was made by Lisa Manzo and seconded by Frank Saladino to approve paying the cover charge for new teachers at Cherokee since they have Back to School Night during the Welcome Back Party: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### COMMITTEES:

- 4:17 pm: District Health and Safety Committee
  - Nothing to report
- 4:17 pm: Political Action
  - Jeff will be attending NYSUT's PAC meeting September 29<sup>th</sup>
  - NYSUT announced their part in:
    - Removal of the edTPA
    - Suspension of APPR
    - Highest funding to public schools in a long time
- 4:18 pm: Public Relations
  - Welcome Back Party (November 3<sup>rd</sup> held at Land's End) is the same night as Cherokee's Back to School Night
  - Retirement Party June 20, 2023 at Land's End
- 4:26 pm: Emergency Fund
  - Nothing to report
- 4:26 pm: Technology
  - Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) Duo app on personal phones is NOT MANDATORY! Is only needed to access district email off site.
    - The Duo app only has access to type of phone, phone number, and IP address, not your location
    - Possible legal ramifications? Personal phones subpoenaed? Duo app only allows access to email, so nothing is stored. If district email is accessed via mail app or Outlook app (on

personal device), then it does stores email, and could possibly be subject to legal ramifications.

- Has been implemented due to insurance requirements, no intentions for future use unless insurance company changes their requirements. Is the least intrusive method.
- The Association's position is not to utilize this app as the contract does not require us to access email while out of school.
- 5:07 pm: Mental Health Advisory Committee
  - Putting pressure on mental health staff and teachers

#### OLD BUSINESS:

- 5:14 pm: Arbitration & Grievances
  - Recently filed: Retirement Incentive not paid on time. District made promises and adjusted their procedure to ensure timeline obligations will be met. (Withdrawn)
  - Academic Freedom: Arbitrator ruled against us (academic freedom does not apply to clubs)
- 5:23 pm: Negotiations
  - Next negotiation meeting with district set for Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Possible steps moving forward:
    - Black shirt Tuesday
    - Black shirts at Back to School Night
    - Picketing Back to School Night
    - Picketing Before School
    - Attend Board meetings (more speakers)
    - Action committee
    - Picket BOE homes
    - Public relations utilizing social media (composing a letter)
    - Educate the public to dispel BOE's lies
  - Association agreed that educating the community should be first step.
  - Continue to wear black shirts on Tuesdays and include Back to School Night. To avoid parent conversations, can simply tell them "Black shirts are a district/union issue. We're here to talk about your child's education."
  - Some BOE meetings will be full union attendance, while others will be certain schools attending
- 6:02 pm: Other
  - Classroom interventionists: participation is voluntary. Questions as to who they report to and what they're reporting.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- 6:09 pm: Community Communication/PR
  - Association is looking to hire someone to create a newsletter to send out to community demonstrating all the positives of teachers. Possibly quarterly or yearly?
- 6:14 pm: Custodian Recognition/Bus Transportation
  - Spending same as last year: up to \$15 per custodian, up to \$200 for bus transportation. Reps will handle their own buildings
- 5:21 pm: New Attorney
  - Our previous attorney is stepping down, will stay on as a consultant. New attorney has experience as a litigator
- 6:17 pm: Elementary Class Coverage
  - Can give up free period for paid coverage. Can decide not to do if asked.
- 6:23 pm: Swiping
  - There is a 5 minute grace period in the morning and 2 instances within the same week before being called in.
  - Elementary: If buses are late and extend your working day, be sure to fill out green sheets
- 6:27 pm: Summer Baby Retirement
  - MOA: can retire in June 2023 if your birthdays fall between July 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>

- Will need Cobra or other coverage until your birthday before NYSTR applies.
- 6:36 pm: Defensive Driving/Retirement Workshop
  - Defensive Driving course is offered October 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the office, as well as online.
  - Retirement Workshop offered October 20<sup>th</sup>
- 6:38 pm: Contact Member Updates
  - Text Tony if any member is not on the mailing list or has if their info has changed.
- 6:39 pm: February Meeting Change of Date
  - February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting will be moved to February 7th.
- 6:39 pm: 50 Minute Recess/Lunch
  - Will keep 40 minute schedule this year
- 6:45 pm: Other
  - If you are sick due to COVID, you can still be out up to 10 days (up to 3 times total). If you decide to come back after 5 days, a mask is required for 5 days.
  - Superintendents conference committee did a good job in planning superintendents conference day. Gave more time for teachers to setup their classrooms.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:48 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Rob Bachisin, CTA Secretary