

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 Meeting of Tuesday, December 13, 2021

PRESENT:

Tony Felicio, Jr., Brad Lindell, Chris Dolce, Ellen Perz, Lisa Manzo, Peter Leis, Paul Rondinella, Shannon Lehnert, Beth Caiola, Frank Saladino, Jeff Vitale, Christine Dassler, Laura Getman-Vaca, Charlie Hafner, Stefanie Litchult, Kevin Keane, Diane Boccio, Rob Burger, Carolyn Paul, Nichole Johnson, Christine Constantine, Leslie Sewell, John Zambriski, Diane Boyle, Joanna Zalewski

ABSENT:

Rob Bachisin, Jennifer Ronayne

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm

MOTIONS:

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report 4:33 pm

- Motion made by John Zambriski and seconded by Peter Leis to approve November '21 Treasurer's Report: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion to Approve pre-purchase emergency fund gift cards 4:46 pm

- Motion was made by Leslie Sewell and seconded by Christopher Dolce to approve \$1,000 in gift cards reserved for emergency fund use: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion to Approve CTA secretary gift 5:12 pm

- Motion was made by Ellen Perz and seconded by Christopher Dolce to approve \$200 Christmas gift for Claire, CTA secretary: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

COMMITTEES:

- 4:36 pm: District Health and Safety Committee
 - No meeting this month.
 - Discussion regarding the cafeteria situation- lack of masks being worn by so many students and some staff. Send kids to administration immediately or call administration to address lack of mask wearing.
- 4:32 pm: Political Action
 - BOE meetings are chaotic and out of control. Beware: of BOE meetings across the Island- LILM, other groups trying to cause division in the districts.
- 4:43 pm: Public Relations
 - Gifts for CO secretaries were purchased and will be delivered next week.
 - Needs at Cohalan center are currently being addressed. They will take children's coats.
 - Still hoping to be able to have the retirement party on June 21, 2022
- 4:45 pm: Emergency Fund
 - No gift cards available for the emergency fund. Motion to purchase \$1,000 in gift cards

- 4:47 pm: Technology
 - The moving of the Smartboards in Cherokee is in the works, but no specific date from the company just yet.
 - Can teachers request extra chromebook plugs for their classroom for student use? Often students' chromebooks die during a lesson and it will not be prudent to send them out of the room to charge their chromebook at a charging station.
 - When will the charging stations be available for use?

OLD BUSINESS:

- 4:50 pm: Arbitration & Grievances
 - Academic freedom grievance- not yet settled. On agenda for tonight's BOE meeting.
 - Nurse prep period – arbitration set for February.
 - Vanguard 403 investments through Omni- can we use this? Petr and Chris met with Reza, Chris from Payroll, et al. If the members agree to pay the \$3 a year fee, the district would allow staff to utilize OMNI. Currently considering a MOA to utilize OMNI through the district. Hopefully it will be settled by tonight.
 - Discussion- who is covered under our contract as “teachers” (nurses, psychologists, etc), and under which circumstances.
- 4:55 pm: Other
 - Peter will be stepping down as president of the Retired Teachers Association and be replaced by Anita Ekstam
 - Discipline Committee- requests from teachers at the elementary level and others are requesting a reinstatement of a disciplinary committee.
 - Discussion: some sort of a template to adapt to the needs of each building in order to create a paper trail and input it into eschool to keep track of long-term student behavior.
 - Can we reinstate the teacher's ability to see the discipline section in eSchool? It is currently not available to any teacher in OBMS and Ronkonkoma Middle School.
 - Elementary teachers are not happy with current reading program. Trying to set meeting with the Asst Superintendent and elementary teachers to discuss the pros and cons of the current reading program.
 - Classes are being canceled due to way too many teachers out, but no change has been made to the amount of training being given out to teachers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 5:14 pm: Other
 - The State Education Department has a requirement that districts have a technology committee. Alise Pulium is creating a committee to meet Friday, January 7th 12:00pm during the day at the Central Office and a second one in March. Instructional Technology Planning Committee
 - One volunteer from each level is requested.
 - Lisa Manzo volunteered for the Elementary level.
 - Still in need of 1 volunteer from the middle school and one from the high school.
 - Do reading and math specialists get a sub when they are out? They usually don't get coverage in most of the schools, and are often pulled to cover classes.
 - Rumor- Schools going virtual after the holidays? Lynda's official response: there has been no discussion regarding this.

- Negotiation update: No talk of money still, minor counter proposals have been made by the CTA, but none have been made by administration. Next meeting tomorrow night. May need to go back to an action committee to combat the negative messages that are constantly complaining about teachers. May need to help educate our young teachers as to the understanding of the benefits and history of the unions.
- Guidance counselors are taking paid preps to cover classes, but they do not need to cover the 5 non-paid periods and do not have a duty period. This is creating animosity among the staff at the high school and middle schools. In Ronkonkoma, Joe Licata directed psychologists to cover classes, even though they are not assigned a professional period.
- The CTA does not feel that any non-classroom personnel should be covering classes either for money or not because they do not have to do the 5 free coverages and they do not have to complete a daily duty period that teachers do. Please let Brad or Tony know of anyone without a duty or professional period being asked or agreeing to cover any classes.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:52 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rob Bachisin, CTA Secretary