

# Connetquot Teachers Association, Inc.

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**MINUTES OF THE:** Connetquot Teachers Association Board of Directors Meeting of  
Tuesday, March 8, 2022

## **PRESENT:**

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

## **ABSENT:**

Rob Burger, Laura Getman-Vaca

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm

## **MOTIONS:**

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report 4:35 pm

- Motion made by Christine Constantine and seconded by Chris Dolce to approve January '22 and February '22 Treasurer's Report: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion to Approve Emergency Fund Gift Card 5:38 pm

- Motion made by Diane Boyle and seconded by John Zambriski for \$250 gift card for the Monterosa Family: **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion to Approve Ukraine Donation 5:57 pm

- Motion made by Frank Saladino and seconded by Ellen Perz for \$500 worth of children's medical supplies for those displaced during the Russia/Ukraine Crisis: **MOTION PASSED** (opposed by J. Zambriski, P. Rondinella)

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

4:36 pm: Guest Speaker – Ms. Poppe

- District received Federal Money intended to provide COVID based relief (multi-million)
- District must provide a spending plan on how funds are dispersed
  - Instructional coaches at elementary level (1 per building)
  - Effective for 2 years (expire 2024)
- Recognizes need of setting up elementary students to complete year as close to grade level as normal
- Looking for input and feedback
  - Is district set on coaches? *District wrote in coaches but not set in stone, there is flexibility*
  - Coaches job description not definitive. Are coaches going to teach teachers? *They will be used to assist in gap areas where needed. Used instead of pulling teachers from classrooms for PD.*
  - Colleagues already assist colleagues. Is this just a waste of money? *This provides an opportunity to for a person to be dedicated to supporting colleagues*

- Is it optional or is it scheduled for teachers? *Flexibility is inherent in the role*
- Can there potentially be repercussions for a teacher requesting assistance? *Coaches are part of the building staff. Interaction would remain confidential, purely supportive of the teacher, (Viewed as an inside person helping with the work).*
- Teachers have been overwhelmed for two years. Is it possible to hire extra teachers for two years instead? Behavior issues and time-factor are the biggest issue. (Most feel extra bodies in the classroom would be most productive, especially reading teachers). *Recognizes the need for RTI in buildings. Reading teachers have been hired in the past under the grant.*
- What if no one goes to coaches? *Ideally coach would be someone from building, not an outsider.*
- Fear that with child pull outs, middle child becomes at risk. Can funds be used to rehire? *Can be used but salary is not a regular paid teacher's salary. Conversation is shifting towards rebranding teacher assistant, keeping people intact in building.*
- If it is successful, can we continue past 2024? *Can only guarantee two years but goal is to find a way to fund it further.*
- Looking to start in September. Reps should poll their building for interested candidates to join a committee and forward names over to Tony, who will email Ms. Poppe
- MS Principals skill building workshop opportunities after school through SCOPE (in person, HS during weekends, MS during week) for skills in ELA and Mathematics. Currently student enrollment is low. Provides an additional learning opportunity for students
- Looking to restart the CQuest program (G&T). Provides an opportunity to reimagine program. There is an external interest in restarting CQuest. Committee later this month.

#### COMMITTEES:

- 5:30 pm: District Health and Safety Committee
  - Nothing to report, HS guidance relocation to library anticipates challenges
- 5:32 pm: Political Action
  - Committee 100 virtual this year, Jeff is awaiting schedule
  - CTA endorses Sarah Smith running for the board, spoke very highly of Connetquot teachers, how teachers and community helped her during difficult times in life. Background in social work.
- 5:36 pm: Public Relations
  - Retirement party June 21, 2022 at Lombardi's on the Bay
  - Honoring retirees from this year as well as past two years
  - First eligible incentive not offered this year to those past first eligible
- 5:37 pm: Emergency Fund
  - Bosti collecting money for burial (\$1500) for Monterosa Family
- 5:40 pm: Technology
  - Meeting with Alise Pulliam: Trying to rollout cloud so print from chromebook to copy machines. Trial in Ronkonkoma. Classroom printers cannot be wireless.
  - Ed Law 2D – (Protects student data). Bring up to members in every building that law is to safe guard student data. Connetquot Website (technology link) contains sites that are approved and not approved. (Quizlet blocked due to misuse.) Classlink also contains list.
  - Diane Boccia & Diane Boyle have new installed Smartboard, but it's an old board. Tech is aware.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 5:46 pm: Arbitration & Grievances
  - Academic freedom grievance arbitration pushed back to April.
- 5:47 pm: Calendar
  - Will be approved tonight at BOE meeting
  - Committee will be set to determine what those superintendent conference days will look like
- 5:49 pm: Other
  - Would photographs of home test and email would be acceptable as opposed to weekly testing?

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 5:50 pm: Lunch/Recess
  - Prior to COVID, discussions to extend recess time. Reverted to shorter time during COVID, no extension this year. Will be discussed at next principal meeting. Speak to principal to advocate the longer extension time
- 5:53 pm: NYSUT Workshop Info
  - Workshop was cancelled
- 5:54 pm: Other
  - Emergency Funds for the Ukraine
  - Collections for Ukrainian refugees being held at HS and Bosti. Beware of organizations that may take a portion of the proceeds being donated.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:10 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Rob Bachisin, CTA Secretary