

Minutes of the West Irondequoit Teachers' Association

Governing Council

April 11, 2017

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:32 by President Scott Steinberg. Scott thanked Kate Dobosz for a wonderful New Member Event in February. Scott introduced Superintendent Crane, who spoke about the 2017-2018 budget and calendar.
- II. Wendy Boomer-Secretary
 - The minutes from the February 14, 2017 Governing Council meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Tammy Jaynes and seconded by Mary Theresa Boerman. The minutes were approved by all.
- III. Todd Fleming-Treasurer
 - Todd presented the treasurer's reports for the months of February and March 2017. A motion to accept the reports as presented was made by Robert Sanchez and seconded by Emily Swanson. The reports were approved by all.
 - A motion to donate \$200.00 toward both the Jr. and Sr. Safe Parties (for a total of \$400.00), was made by Julie Wolf and seconded by Erika Guetti. The motion was approved by all.
 - A motion to spend \$750.00 to purchase Constitutional Convention "Vote No" buttons and car magnets was made by Tammy Jaynes and seconded by Mark Pringle. The motion was approved by all. Scott noted that information about the upcoming Constitutional Convention vote, and why it is important to vote "NO", would be distributed to members with the buttons and magnets. Scott explained that it is important to have one-on-one conversations with members in regards to the upcoming Constitutional Convention vote.
- IV. Steve Schockow-Executive Vice President
 - Steve presented the Board of Education Capsule Summaries from February 16, 2017, and March 23, 2017.
 - The next Board of Education Meeting will be April 13, 2017 at District Office.
- V. Kate Dobosz-Second Vice President
 - Kate thanked members that helped to purchase raffle items for the February New Member Event. Kate asked that members contact her if there are any new hires in buildings.
- VI. Jeff Guercio-Grievance Chair
 - Scott announced that there are no grievances at this time.
- VII. Julie Wolf-VOTE/COPE Chair
 - Julie explained the upcoming VOTE/COPE campaign to the membership. The campaign will take place from May 9-June 8, 2017. Julie asked Building Reps to hand deliver VOTE/COPE information to members to encourage donations. Scott thanked Julie for her work on this campaign and reminded members that VOTE/COPE is our only political action money as state and local union dues are not spent on political activities.
- VIII. Maureen Bacchetta-PTSA Chair
 - Scott announced there is no new PTSA information at this time.
- IX. Jane Beamish-NYSTRS Chair
 - Jane asked members to email her with any retirement questions they may have. Jane will check emails periodically while she is out on medical leave.
- X. Scott Steinberg-President's Report
 - Scott announced that the invitations for the Excellence in Education Banquet on May 16, 2017, would be distributed to members on April 12, 2017. Please contact Erika Guetti or Lindsay Shaughnessy if you are interested in donating an item for the raffle.
 - Scott explained the NYSUT #Public School Proud social media campaign and urged members to get involved.
 - Scott announced that the next AROS Day of Action will be May 1, 2017. Members are asked to wear their WITA shirts on this day. Please send any pictures of members wearing their shirts to Scott, and he will post on social media.
 - Scott announced that WITA elections would take place on May 3-4, 2017. The nomination deadline is April 24, 2017. All positions are 2-year terms. All positions including VP and Building Reps must be nominated. Please send nominations to Colleen Vay.

- Scott spoke about Teacher Personal Time. It has come to our attention that the district changed how they calculate partial day personal time. After discussion with the district, they have agreed to revert to the former method of using the percentage of the day taken.
- Scott announced that the district subtracts extended sick leave of 5 days or more from FMLA time. The time is also taken from sick time as usual. FMLA is a legal requirement and is not contractual, and the district must inform the member in writing when FMLA is being utilized. Members (still) DO NOT have to provide a Doctor's excuse unless they have been sick for 10 or more consecutive days.
- Scott announced that the Technology Subcommittee would meet next on April 26, 2017.
- Todd Fleming attended the Leadership Institute. Todd reiterated that one-on-one conversations with members are extremely important when trying to get members involved. Todd also explained that it would be important to educate members on the upcoming vote on the Constitutional Convention. If the Constitution is opened, teacher pensions and Collective Bargaining may be taken away. Todd also spoke about the importance of educating members about the current Berman vs. PEF case, which concerns the right to work movement making mandatory union dues illegal. We need to be proactive around these issues and educate our members sooner than later.
- Scott, Steve Schockow, and Ann Martin attended the recent NYSUT RA convention. WITA was awarded a 14th consecutive Community Service award. New NYSUT Officers were elected.
- Scott, Julie Wolf, and Ryan Swisher attended the recent MCFT Legislative Forum.
- Scott attended the Committee of 100 where he received training concerning the upcoming Constitutional Convention vote.
- Scott asked members to send wedding and birth announcements to Kim Sklenar for the last issue of the Scoop coming out in May.
- Scott met with Mr. Crane on February 27, 2017 and March 27, 2017. Their next meeting will be on April 24 2017.

XI. Building Issues: There were no building issues discussed today.

XII. Dates and Announcements to Remember

- WITA Election Nomination deadline is April 24, 2017
- Technology Use Subcommittee meeting at District Office is April 26, 2017 at 3:30
- ED 5/6 Meeting at RIT Inn and Conference Center is April 26, 2017 at 4:15
- AROS Day of Action and WITA Logo Shirt Day is May 1, 2017
- WITA Executive Committee at WITA Office is May 2, 2017 at 3:30
- WITA Elections are May 3-4
- WITA Governing Council Meeting at IHS Faculty Cafeteria is May 9, 2017 at 3:30
- School Budget Vote is May 16, 2017
- Excellence in Education Dinner at Glendoveers is May 16, 2017

XIII. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kate Dobosz and seconded by Ellen Tuohey. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Boomer
WITA Secretary