

Amherst Teachers Association Exec. Council Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023

To the world
you may be just
a teacher but to
your students
you are a HERO!
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President Lisa Schenk called the February meeting of the Amherst Teachers Association to order. Russ Marty moved that the January 2023 minutes be approved. Diana Beetler seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted and submitted.

Committee Reports

<p>Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>The Treasurer's report for February 15, 2023 was submitted.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="532 768 1416 1146"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Checking:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance.....</td> <td>\$4,330.36.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">30 mo. CD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest</td> <td>\$1.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ending balance....</td> <td>\$8,293.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Savings:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interest.....</td> <td>\$0.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ending balance.....</td> <td>\$12,292.77</td> </tr> </table>	Checking:		Balance.....	\$4,330.36.	30 mo. CD		Interest	\$1.06	Ending balance....	\$8,293.80	Savings:		Interest.....	\$0.77	Ending balance.....	\$12,292.77
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<p>Membership</p>	<p>DUES: For the 2022-2023 school year, the total annual dues will be \$800 for full-time members (\$17 total increase from 2021-2022), \$444 for half-time members and \$274.75 for quarter-time members (Title Tutors and Paraprofessionals). Also added to this amount is \$40 for every member for our local dues. Dues will be divided into 22 pays beginning October 10, 2022 (except Title Tutors divided over 18 pays). If you have any affiliation membership, that will increase your amount. (Contact Wendi if you would like to know if you have an affiliate membership attached to your dues.) Every member pays the local dues of \$40 divided over your 18 or 22 pays. You will see 2 union dues deductions-one local and the other for OEA. No dues are deducted in September. Contact Wendi Lowe, ATA Treasurer, wendi_lowe@amherstk12.org if you have any questions. **As a member, you are financially responsible for the entire year's amount of the ATA dues no matter when you leave or retire. This is contractual language- 5.04 H, I, J.</p>																

	<p>If you know you are taking an unpaid Leave of Absence (LOA) ahead of the leave, please contact Wendi Lowe .</p> <p>**Please be sure you send any name, phone number, personal emails and/or address changes to Wendi Lowe to keep our records updated. Please submit changes ASAP.</p> <p>REMINDER: Executive Council monthly meetings are open to the membership. (See link to “Legislative council meeting dates” below). We applied for and received a grant from OEA for gmail accounts for all officers and grievance chair. We will let you know when it goes live.</p> <p>GRANT OPPORTUNITY: OEA has offered a 1 year grant to pay for a business license for our 4 officers and grievance chair. Wendi has completed the grant application and we have received the grant. The officers and grievance chair will have email accounts that will be used for ATA business. After the 1st year, ATA will pay to maintain the business accounts.</p> <p>Local dues: the increase in local dues will be \$40 (a total of \$80 for all members) beginning with the 2023-2024 school year starting with the October 10, 2023 pay.</p>
LPDC Report	No report.

Grievance	No report.
Elections	No report
Social	No report
Insurance	<p>Medical costs are outpacing premiums. We do expect to see an increase in our premiums next school year-we hope to know that by the end of March. Please complete the Online Biometric/Health Assessment by March 1st. This online assessment is due by March 1st in order to receive the Wellness rate for insurance. Remember-our current dental insurance is Delta Dental.\</p> <p>Biometric Screening Dates for 2023-24: Wed., Aug, 16th, 2023 6:00am-1:30pm @ Powers (this is a non-contractual day for certified staff, but a contractual day for 260-day employees). You do still have the option of scheduling this day. Mon., Aug. 21st, 2023 6:00am-1:30pm (this is a contractual day for certified)</p> <p>Insurance Committee Members: Lisa Schenk, Russ Marty, Marcus Whiteamire, Brian Cesear (Steele), Cindy Giacobbe (AJH), Joe Mullen (Nord), Veronica Keck (Powers)</p>

Old Business

<p>Thank Yous</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Elevating Positivity Committee-</p>	<p>The committee met Jan. 11th and wrote a description for the ATA Scholarship to turn into the high school to add to their current list. The committee will accept applications from our high school seniors, review and select a recipient.</p> <p>Donations were accepted from an anonymous donor, \$100 from Rotary and a \$400 donation from Kim Gambish in memory of Ron Gambish for our ATA scholarship. We have a total of \$859.30.</p> <p>Please look for an email from Lisa with details for a Donation Drive to our ATA Scholarship Fund. You can write a check to the Amherst Teachers Association (please write in the memo 'ATA Scholarship Fund') or send cash. Donations will be sent to Wendi Lowe at the high school. The Donation Drive will continue through March 3, 2023. Please consider donating-any amount is appreciated!</p> <p>Our Care Closets in each building are now set up. During conference night on February 16th, all buildings will have a district wide donation acceptance of items for the closets. We will need to promote that through all of our available channels. The committee will be sharing all of the activities: service projects, scholarship with Mike Molnar to share with the community through his PR. He did include the activities in his last Staff News Flash. We look forward to the continued promotion of this Committee. Spring service project: to be held on Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day) to clean up our school grounds. A Positivity Patch (garden) will be created on each school campus with sandstone etched with possibly ATA's garden or supported by ATA. Any ideas are welcome to share!</p> <p>An OEA grant was completed with the help of Marcus for \$2400 to be awarded for next school year to support our service projects. Elevating Positivity Committee members: Deanna Walther (Chairperson), Emily Marty, Joyce Kasnyik, Cindy Giacobbe, Krystin Mackowski, Michelle VonKaenel, Chandler Kremer, Julie Hammond, Lynn Andrews.</p>
<p>Negotiations</p>	<p>Brian and Lisa had another Pre-Negotiations meeting with Mike, Amy, and Sarah on Monday, February 13th, 2023. The meeting went well and was productive in working on both sides' issues. It is currently focused on working on contract language and housekeeping issues that are anticipated not to be table issues. We have scheduled Table Bargaining dates-the Negotiations Team</p>

	<p>will be starting with March 8 and 9th all day sessions. We will keep the membership updated throughout the negotiations process. Negotiation information will be communicated to members via personal emails.</p> <p>Committee Members: Brian Kelley, Russ Marty, Nate Wolshuck, Mike Edwards, Allison Allen, Lisa Schenk, Staci Peltz, Diana Beetler, Beth Kovach, Deanna Walther, Becky Bruck, Meg Riegler.</p>
Parent-teacher Conferences	Principals and reps should have met to finalize dates for the 2023-24 school year.
Discretionary Funds	<p>Submit applications by the end of February at the latest to the building representatives who then meet with their building principals to approve. The form is in your contract. See your building rep. with any questions.</p> <p>Funds for this year are 13.33% of the base for PreK-, 1% of the base for 9-12. The base this year is \$42,031.</p>
ATA Website	Thanks to Nate Wolshuck and Mike Edwards for setting up the site. It is still in the early stage, and more will be added. Members will be able to access general information and forms. We will roll out the Website to all members when all of the information has been added and finalized.

New Business

Seniority List	The seniority list is available to view in your building-secretaries should have a hard copy in the office for your viewing . Please see your building rep if you have any questions or concerns.
MegaConference	Saturday, March 4th, 2023.
Legislative Reception	Monday, March 20th, 2023.
Retirement Celebration	We are discussing a Retirement Celebration for this year. More information to come soon!


Handouts/Attachments

None reported	
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Building Concerns

Powers	There are concerns about the amount of copy paper available for the remainder of the year. Teachers have been told to conserve as there is a 'shortage' of paper and toner.
Nord	Nothing to report
AJH	Nothing to report
Steele	Nothing to report

Tidbits~Recognition

<p><i>Congratulations:</i> Mike Edwards and Nate Wolshuck will be attending an educator workshop at Parris Island.</p> <p>Morning Journal Article on Art class in Mr. DiFranco's room! https://www.morningjournal.com/2023/01/23/amherst-schools-adds-ceramics-classes-as-part-of-arts-program/</p>	
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Those in Attendance: Lynn Andrews, Veronica Keck, Mary Kay Mullen, Lisa Schenk, Nate Wolshuck, Marcus Whiteamire, Diana Beetler, Deanna Walther, Mike Edwards, Chris Barbaro, Mary Romano, Heidi Triska, Lisa Harcula, Steve Latto, Russ Marty, Becky Bruck, Wendi Lowe

Adjournment: Nate Wolshuck moved that the meeting be adjourned and Wendi Lowe seconded the motion.

Legislative Council Meeting Dates: Next meeting: March 15th, 2023

Next BOE Meeting Monday, Feb 27, 2023 (AJH to cover @ Steele)

[Amherst Teachers' Association Officers, Building Reps, and LPDC Reps for 21-24](#)

ATA Officers 22-23

President	Lisa Schenk (AJH)
Vice President	Russ Marty (Steele)

Secretary	Becky Bruck (Powers)
Treasurer/Membership	Wendi Lowe (Steele)

Building Representatives 22-24

Powers	Nord	AJH	Steele
Lynn Andrews Veronica Keck Heidi Triska	Diana Beetler Mary Kay Mullen	Lisa Harcula Steve Latto Mary Romano	Chris Barbaro Mike Edwards Nate Wolshuck

Social Chairperson	Deanna Walther
Election Chairperson	Lisa Misson

LPDC Representatives

Powers	Nord	AJH	Steele.
Diane Carpenter	Erin Kinser Jessica Stellwagen	Lisa Schenk Jennifer Rush Mary Bartek	Sarah Rigda

Negotiated Contract & Bylaws

<u>ATA Negotiated Contract</u> (June 30, 2019 thru June 29, 2022-2023-1 year extension)	<u>Constitution & Bylaws</u>
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