**WHITE PLAINS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

**White Plains, New York**

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

**November 19, 2019**

**PRESENT:** K. McCormick-Lyons, President M. Cremin, Mamaroneck Avenue

L. Brown, Treasurer L. Naughton, Post Raod

J. Hughes, Secretary M. Moore, Post Road

R. Drach, Membership S. Bierly, Ridgeway

K. McMath, Board Liaison K. Fine, Ridgeway

M. Staar, Parliamentarian A. Pedulla, Ridgeway

E. Conrad, Health & Safety R. Santangelo, Ridgeway

D. Benge, Church Street K. Fleischman, Eastview

B. Golden, Church Street E. Galvin, Eastview

K. Hall-Eyre, Church Street M. Sanchez, Highlands

N. Gil, George Washington R. Baddeley, Alternative Programs

M. Sullivan, Pupil Services

**GUESTS:** Peter Lanzo, NYSUT, LRS

**ABSENT:** D. Acevedo, Vice President/ Elementary Grievance E. Baker, Highlands CJ. Gilot, Internal Organizing M. Ghilardi, Highlands

S. Tapia, Elementary Grievance J. Sette, Highlands

A. Hovis-Williams, Staff Development L. Sherman, Highlands

E. Lugo, Community Outreach B. Sullivan, Highlands

L. Moore, PTA Liaison J. Stein, High School

M. Stanton, Welfare Trust Liaison C. Hertel, High School

T. Veeder, Legislative Liaison M. Ifill-Roseau, High School

A. Boyko Church Street A. Klemstine, High School

J. Monti, George Washington M. Lambert, High School

C. Sincerbeaux, George Washington A. Litchfield, High School

C. Levant, Mamaroneck Avenue A. Mahood, High School

W. McGuinn, East-view S. Pearl, High School

S. Anastacio, Eastview J. Suman, High School

T. Daly, Highlands W. Tonissen, High School

S. Rizzio, Alternative Programs

**I.** **Acceptance of Minutes**

October minutes approved with change.

1. **Officers’ Report**

1. Treasurer – La-Sheila Brown

a) Financial report.

2. Secretary – John Hughes

Please e-mail committee reports and round robin concerns shared at Council Meetings.

**III. President’s Report**

* We are excited to introduce our LRS, Peter Lanzo. While he is new to us, he has been doing this work for more years than he wants to share! He has really given us sage advice and counsel.
* Our new teacher reception was a huge success. Let’s do a solidarity event in February. Also, please share your ideas for celebrating the tenure of our new members.
* Last week, I had the chance to meet at with the Commissioner, Chancellor, and curriculum team at NYSED along with our NYSUT Executive VP, Jolene DiBrango. I will share a few helpful resources in the upcoming newsletter. Also, later this month I will send out a survey about some important topics that will help me present your vantage point in future conversations at NYSED.
* The teacher shortage is going to be a huge problem. It is critical that we sustain our profession by encouraging others to take a look at our career. I have reached out NYSUT about starting a program here in White Plains. If you have any interest in being a part of this, please let me know.
* Health and Safety: Jen Stein and Emily Conrad just held a great meeting at the high school about safety regulations and protocols. If you have any questions about this, please reach out to Emily for more information.
* Women’s Committee: What are your thoughts? I will send out a survey about this too.
* We have a new logo in the works. We also need to get a new website underway.
* We are so lucky to be a part of a dynamic labor movement both nationally and locally. Let’s energize our folks!

**IV. *Round Robin***

***District Wide Concern*** – Consultants won’t model best practices or explain why they won’t.

***Eastview:***

Student Placement Concerns

* Seem to be based on predetermination driven by #’s
* Why is there no Passages program in middle school when there is in elementary and high school?
* There is a need for more PPS staff. Students who are in an 8-1-1 program in elementary are mainstreamed in middle school
* Out of district students with unknown social emotional issues have needs that are not being addressed
* Related Arts have no support in their classes for students with social emotional and behavioral needs

***Highlands:***

* The faculty felt insulted by the training on the recent Superintendent’s Conference Day when they were told “…the barrier is in lesson design…”
* American education week concerns
  + Safety
  + Distractions in class
  + Parents videoing lessons?

***High School:*** We need to reflect on the lockdown protocols and communication in the light of the recent lockdown event that occurred on Halloween afternoon.

***Post Road:***

* Dual Language Concerns
  + K, 1 & 2 – 50/50 is new
  + 1st grade is getting time during the day
  + 2nd grade is denied time during the day

***Church Street:***

* Dual Language Concerns
  + Double workload
  + Translation and modification
  + Logistics – preparing baggies for HW
  + Report Cards – tons of boxes
  + Social emotional issues abound
  + DL needs a district wide meeting
* TAs being pulled impacts the classroom

***George Washington:***

* Student behavior
  + Need for protocol about referrals
  + How is DASA being implemented?
    - Consequences for biased language?
    - Consequences for behavior?
* Special ed class (12-1-1) mainstreams into specials – where is the support?

***Ridgeway:***

* Short staffed
* Subs may not be aware of students needs/behavior problems

***Mamaroneck Avenue:***

* More TAs needed
* Heating issues – some rooms are too hot

**V. *Motions***

19-16 ***The White Plains Teachers Association approves changes to the Staff Development By-Laws as follows:***

* 1. ***Strike “NY Hospital” and “Adult Education” from the membership***
  2. ***Change “Community School” to “Rochambeau Alternative High School”.***
  3. ***Strike “Curriculum Council Liaison” from the composition.***
  4. ***Will not add a “Non-Public School” member to by-laws.***

***Motion to approve, seconded and passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

John Hughes, Secretary