

CANTON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Paul Palomba, President

BUILDING LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

Date 2/9/2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Paul Palomba called the meeting of the Executive Leadership Team and Building Leadership Representative Assembly of the Canton Professional Educators Association to order on 2/9/26 at 4:32 p.m. Andrea McSherry motioned to accept the agenda with flexibility, Gretchen Bagley seconded the motion. Motion approved.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The following ELT members in **black** were in attendance:

The following ELT members in **red** were not in attendance (*Denotes reported excused absence.):

1. Paul Palomba	11. Ann Cochrane
2. Lynne Watson	12. Cheryl Bissmeyer
3. Amanda Gillespie	13. Juliann Doerschuk
4. Darren Furno	14. Joslin Shaffer
5. Karen Brank	15. Randy Bifolchi
6. Sharen Lindberg	16. Jen Eberle
7. Andrea McSherry	17. Manny Halkias
8. Jennifer Schott	18. Jennifer Henderson
9. Ruth Allison	19. Greg Soper
10. Yvonne Scott	20. Sandy Rosetta

III. CORRESPONDENCE – none

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Darren Furno reported out on the Treasurer's Report for January.

Darren explained the payments at line 2100 from the OEA Operating Grant.

For repairs and maintenance, Darren explained the cost of fixing the roof leak.

1. Update on Scholarship/Tuition Reimbursement Program—Darren is adding additional information regarding the scholarships to the Treasurer's report sheet.
 - a. Darren moves to consolidate all collaborative funds into a single account rather than maintaining several smaller accounts. Manny motions, and Bifolchi seconds for the matter to be heard.
 - i. This would move Night at the Races money into another account. Sharen asks whether there will be line items to keep funds separate and whether we are changing the scholarship parameters. A discussion ensued.
 - ii. Vote was taken. Motion on the floor passes.
 - b. Darren moves to consider reducing funds for the reimbursement program. The audit committee will evaluate it and move it to a sliding scale so that the amount offered increases or decreases based on the number of teachers employed.
 - c. Bifolchi questions if voting is required. Darren shares that a vote is required to open an account, so for transparency, he prefers input.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. School Budget update—
 - a. The 60% per-building threshold is back. States could take your building and sell to charter if not at capacity.
 - b. Brenner's Bill - universal system if they have to come take our building, "so it's fair". Option 1: Charter comes in to take over. Option 2: Students go to different districts. Option 3: They come to take our building.

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- c. Scott Olsleiger is out, he will not seek reelection.
- d. Our best chance is Candidate A for Governor. The hope is if you elect Candidate A, maybe the voter will also vote for more candidate A's. We need to gain 7 seats in State House in order to encourage dialog and remove supermajority. Randy shared that primary elections are just as important.
- 2. Legislative Update–
 - a. Julie Setters is on the Ohio Retirement Board and is collecting signatures to run (the judge stayed legislation to allow her to run).
 - b. STRS is older than Social Security. We started it in 1920. 1935 is when social security started.
- 3. ECOEA Legislative Dinner–We need to pack the house this time. March 6th. 6 pm. A \$25 deposit; when you arrive, you will get it back. Bring guests at a \$25 ticket cost. Call Melissa, and we will send money in for you.
- 4. CCSD Messaging
 - a. There is a fine line when speaking about this in the building. Just be careful, **stick to facts**.
 - b. Paul shared that we are better off focusing on our own constituents. He noted that Democrats did not turn out to vote last time.
 - c. Paul spoke on the dots leading up to where we are. He urged BR leaders to step up to communicate our dire situation with our members in each building.
 - d. Paul shared the budget situation due to Ohio legislation. This is not a Republican thing; it's a supermajority thing. The super can pass any form of legislation they want. They need no one. They do this every time in a budget bill. Republicans in Ohio do not support public education. We have to get Candidate A across the finish line. Better to try and fail than to never try at all. Manny shared that Candidate B shared last week that school choice is the social movement of this generation. A video of Candidate B saying these things was played.
 - e. Paul urged members to keep the message simple. Keep the conversation on education.
 - f. There will be a PACE coming at least once a week; do not stuff them in mailboxes. Use this opportunity to visit each person in the building and hand it to them in person. Read it first. Keep track of who is getting the information. Woods asked how PACE will come. Paul shares it will be paper. They will also be put on the website. Sandy asks that the facts shared tonight be in a PACE.
 - g. Paul cautions that we cannot be upset with Talbert for fiscal decisions required by Ohio legislative policy.
 - h. Randy asked how much money we lose per year to bus Charters. New busses are \$151,000. Paul shares that it is difficult to get the exact figures. Bussing law 1965, there were only a few. Now, more schools, different start/end times.
 - i. Woods asked to share the graphic of how our membership has changed over time.
 - j. Michelle Martin-Jones shared that funding cuts will impact special education. Budget cuts impact Medicaid, OT/PT/Nurses/Screenings/Special Needs kids equipment.
- 5. ELT Positions are open if anyone is interested.
- 6. NEA Delegate in Denver, Colorado. We will send 4, but will pay only for the top 3 vote-getters.

VI. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Labor management -Lynn shared that they met on the 4th to speak on HB96 for two factor authentication with Heather Heater.
- 2. On Friday Jason Dixon spoke about the moves. Teachers receive a roll of tape and 5 boxes, but he's looking to get bins for transport and a company to train on how to pack, and dumpsters to purge.
- 3. June 10th is final inspection, teachers will get a week to pack.
 - a. BelleStone first
 - b. Worley, McGregor, and Cedar next.
- 4. Membership Appreciation Drawing :
 - a. PK3: Jennifer Ketchum- Schreiber ,Christine Grady - Cedar
 - b. 4-6: Wendy Embrogno- STEAMM, Brenda Bomberger - Youtz
 - c. MS: Wendy Silver, Chelsea Walden of STEAMM
 - d. HS: Thomas Lewis - Choices, Jonathan Cordes - ECHS

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. GRIEVANCE – none
- 2. MEMBERSHIP – no report
- 3. LEGISLATIVE – no report

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4. NEGOTIATIONS – no report
5. SCHOLARSHIP – no report
6. PUBLIC RELATIONS/WEBSITE – no report
7. TEACHER WELFARE – no report
8. CONSTITUTION/ELECTIONS – no report
9. PACE – no report
10. LPDC/IN-SERVICE – no report
11. RETIRED – Sandy Rosetta reported
12. UNISERV – no report
13. BUILDING AND FACILITIES – no report
14. MAC COMMITTEE – no report
15. AUDIT COMMITTEE – no report
16. ECOEA –Juliann shared that there are two scholarships for workshops and names are needed. There is also a scholarship for students headed for education.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: Andrea McSherry brought up that IEP meetings are being scheduled during personal planning and asked for clarification. Contract states “uninterrupted” and principals are using the contractual language “professional responsibilities”. Paul said during negotiations it was agreed that sometimes interruptions need to happen during planning but it should never be compulsive or chronic. IEP meetings meet the definition of collaboration i.e. TBT time. Paul will reintroduce this at the next Friday meeting with admin, will need information of who and how much. Denise shared that HS sped teachers do not have a duty in lieu of IEP meetings.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Yvonne Parks shared that Leila Green is hosting a raffle to raise funds for the two scholarships they offer. The basket is in honor of Black History Month. Those who want tickets can CashApp \$YvonneMaria \$5 or 6 for \$20

A member asked whether or not members were allowed to post online about Epstein Files. Paul recommends not to engage with social media this way.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Gillespie
CPEA Secretary