

## CANTON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Paul Palomba, President

## BUILDING LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

Date

### I. CALL TO ORDER

President Paul Palomba called the meeting of the Executive Leadership Team and Building Leadership Representative Assembly of the Canton Professional Educators Association to order on 9/15/25 at 4:43 p.m. Sharon Lindberg motioned to accept the agenda with flexibility, and Ruth Allison 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 – Linda Riffle sent a card and thanked us for the retirement gifts and for all the well wishes.

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Darren Furno presented the Treasurer's Report. OEA overpaid us two payments for the year; those funds will have to be refunded. OEA is likely to pro-rate us for the overpayment. On the expense side, we received \$9,000 back for property taxes from the city. The report form for the expenses has been adjusted for this year to better reflect the funds we are receiving from the bond accounts. The budget reflects an amended \$65,000 for the parking lot next door, for which we will recoup upon the final sale of the property.

Manny Halkias motioned to accept the treasurer's report from the meeting, and Jen Schott seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Darren Furno shared a proposed budget for 25-26. The new proposed budget has been adjusted to reflect that Melissa Riffle makes more in salary, but we do not cover her health insurance as we did for Linda Riffle. The crisis committee budget will receive \$3,000. The building experienced internet issues today, resulting in some budget errors on the proposal form, which will be corrected by the next meeting. We will re-examine this at the next meeting after corrections are made.

Darren Furno confirmed that buildings receive \$7 per member for food for the year.

### V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### 1. OEA Delegate Sign-Up

- a. 15 slots are available. If you are interested, please sign up on the paper on the door. September 26th is the deadline to declare interest. CPEA pays for elected members to attend. Fall RA: Dec 6, Spring ECOEA: April 11, Spring OEA RA: May 8, 9th.

#### 2. Updates & Misc.

- a. Legislative: We will face financial shortages. Paul discussed some of the decisions that were made by our Governor and how they will impact us. Paul shared that if we can gain control of some seats in the House and Senate, we can eliminate the supermajority. Candidate Ramaswamy is supporting merit-based pay for education. The democratic candidate is Amy Acton.
- b. Manny Halkias emphasized that we, as voters, must be well-informed when electing our local Board of Ed members to preserve education.

**CANTON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**  
Paul Palomba, President

**BUILDING LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**  
Date

- c. Paul shared concerns that White Christian Nationalism views are seeping into public education.
- d. Teachers are paid with property taxes, yet property taxes are being altered. Paul cautions that we must be informed when voting on property tax issues. He urged members to understand that we are running parallel education systems in Ohio- public and charter.
- e. Paul reminds us that “property tax relief” from any overpayment does not come back to the voters; it will go to the corporations first. Cuts are not scheduled until 2027, strategically to be after the midterm elections.
- f. Paul shares that CPEA will screen candidates this year. Paul Palomba, Lynne Watson, Greg Soper, Manny Halkais, Daniel Woods, Cheryl Bissemeyer, Joslyn Shaffer, Christie McNelly, and Rita McMillian will serve on the Screener Committee. The Screener Committee meeting will be on Oct 6th to examine and update screening questions.
- g. Daniel Woods shared that the League of Women Voters does not endorse candidates, but they do have tons of information on their website about candidates.

3. ELT Open Positions

- a. PreK-3: One position: Cherie Johnson Clark and Michelle Martin Jones are running. CPEA will send an email. October 10th is the deadline to declare intent to run for office.
- b. Multilevel One position: EL, arts, IC, and TRT members would qualify for this seat.

**VI. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- 1. Lynne shared that she's visited a majority of the buildings and reports that the environment and atmosphere are great. She encourages BR members to meet with building principals.
  - a. Daniel Woods' meeting notes template is very nice and will be shared with BR members.
- 2. Lynne reminds us that our contract is sacred, and if a staff member or admin wants to tweak it, that can be done, but it needs to be 100% of the members' vote for the change. A discussion was had on what this means and which events can be scheduled during personal planning.
  - a. Further discussion occurred regarding “Learning Walks.” Members report that it has an evaluative undertone.
- 3. Lynne warns us to be very careful about what we choose to post on social media.

**VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1. GRIEVANCE – No grievances.
- 2. MEMBERSHIP – Sandy Rosetta reported that we are in progress with counting members.
- 3. LEGISLATIVE –
- 4. NEGOTIATIONS – Paul shared that negotiations begin in the spring of the third year of the contract.
- 5. SCHOLARSHIP – November 1st is the deadline to submit for reimbursement if you paid for classes. Members can submit a request every other year. Deadlines for memorial scholarships will be a little earlier than before so that candidates can be chosen and be a part of the spring banquet.
- 6. PUBLIC RELATIONS/WEBSITE – no report
- 7. TEACHER WELFARE – no report
- 8. CONSTITUTION/ELECTIONS – no report
- 9. PACE – no report
- 10. LPDC/IN-SERVICE – Meetings Sept 25, Oct 16th, Nov 6th, Dec 4th. Submit five pieces of evidence at a time.
- 11. RETIRED – no report
- 12. UNISERV – no report
- 13. BUILDING AND FACILITIES – Paul reports that we are waiting on the lot sale to finalize. The city is not in a hurry to get us the permits. We ended up going with an asphalt company as a result, which will cost less and will increase our profit.
- 14. MAC COMMITTEE – no report
- 15. AUDIT COMMITTEE – no report
- 16. ECOEA – Julieann shared that registration for the legislative update dinner closes on October 10th. Details in PACE. PR grant information is on the ECOEA website.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**CANTON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION**  
Paul Palomba, President

**BUILDING LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE MEETING**  
Date

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Sharon Lindberg shared that we need help with the Christmas Party. She will make sure it's not on the OEA weekend. She shared how nice it was last year.
- b. Dan shared on supplemental stipends. The titles no longer fit the culture of the buildings. Dan advocates changing the titles of those funds so members can access them. He gave the example that eSports needs two coaches, but there is no stipend for a second coach. In contrast, STEAMM has no Academic Challenge team, but there exists an Academic Challenge coach stipend.
  - b.i. The contract states that the stipend committee can meet twice a year. CPEA brings different people every time. Admin brings whoever they want.

**X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** All buildings will have five after-school meetings, mandatory to attend, not required to schedule. Absences from after-school meetings must be made up. The question was raised as to why this is happening if we are having budget concerns. Paul and Lynne will discuss this with the administration.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Gillespie  
CPEA Secretary