

CANTON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Paul Palomba, President

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

September 8, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Lynne Watson called the meeting of the Executive Leadership Team of the Canton Professional Educators Association to order on September 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Jen Henderson motioned to accept the agenda with flexibility. Randy Bifolchi 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

– We received a letter from the Early Childhood Resource Center thanking Ms. Riffle and Ms. Watson for the \$500 gift towards the 25th anniversary celebration. Jan Kirby Kulma sent a card to CPEA Leadership thanking them for a wonderful evening of dinner, fellowship, and retirement recognition. Iron Workers 550 sent a letter of thanks for sponsoring the Joseph Crone Scholarship Fund.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

No report

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. New ELT members, Ann Cochrane, and Joslin Shaffer, were introduced. Other ELT members introduced themselves to the newcomers.
2. The OEA Delegate signup sheet is on the door. Sign up if interested.
3. Committee Assignments & Work.
 - a. Lynne shared that being an NEA delegate was a great experience. While there, she learned of a grassroots movement to support public education called Public School Strong. Lynne advocates that we join in this movement. Karen Brank emphasized the importance of involving younger teachers, as many in the ELT are nearing retirement.
 - b. A discussion on the top 3 priorities commenced. Suggestions included decreasing class size, educating members and the public about the gubernatorial race, voter registration, and increasing voter turnout at the polls.
 - c. Members agreed on the importance of educating the public on political matters that impact education. Manny and Randy shared points on how to reach the public with vital information. The overarching question is, "How do we mobilize our membership?" A general information meeting for all members was suggested to kickstart this process. Cheryl shared that we need information on how to respond to counterarguments on political issues.
 - d. Gillespie suggested we need the same perk for members to bring their kids to the CCS district that private schools offer to their staff to enroll their kids in private schools. Sharon suggests we begin with educating the public and parents. Furno suggests that teachers work on educating their circles.
 - e. Some suggestions made were that the ELT needs to be restructured to focus on its work rather than mirroring BLT. ELT should commence the week after BLT, not before. We should gather survey feedback on people's strengths to better assign them to committees.

CANTON PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

Paul Palomba, President

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

September 8, 2025

- f. To do: ELT needs a copy of the constitution and bylaws to see the committee descriptions. The updated constitution needs to be posted on the website. Some committees may need to be adjusted as they overlap. ELT is to follow the union's social media and invite friends. Any information that should be posted is shared with Amanda and Melissa. The committee discussion is tabled until Paul is present.
- 4. Misc:
 - a. Treasurer Darren Furno reported that the parking lot repairs are still in the works. The city sidewalk work has delayed the estimates.

VI. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1.
- 2. Membership Appreciation Drawing : PK3: 4-6: MS: HS:

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. GRIEVANCE – Meet for arbitration, rarely meet
- 2. MEMBERSHIP –
- 3. LEGISLATIVE – no report
- 4. NEGOTIATIONS – 2026-2027. Two parts: those sitting at the table, those creating surveys for members.
- 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 – no report
- 12. UNISERV – no report
- 13. BUILDING AND FACILITIES – no report
- 14. MAC COMMITTEE – MAC shall be resurrected. We will get involved in Public School Strong to advocate for public education.
- 15. AUDIT COMMITTEE – no report
- 16. ECOEA –no report

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

XI. ADJOURNMENT: Lynne motioned to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Gillespie
CPEA Secretary