

THE MEMBERSHIP



The Newsletter of The West Genesee Teachers' Association <http://www.wgta.net>

Honoring John Mannion



In 2013, John Mannion took over as the president of the West Genesee Teachers' Association. Through his leadership, he was able to reorganize the WGTA into a fiscally strong organization that makes positive changes for both teachers and students. John held fast to the purpose of our organization by advancing the standards of the teaching profession and promoting the general welfare of the union.

John has been a rock for our membership over the past seven years. He has represented all of us as members of NYSUT and protected our contractual rights as employees of the West Genesee School District. We owe a great deal to John Mannion in the stability of public education in the Camillus community. We would like to thank him for his service to the teaching profession and will miss working with him. John is now onto bigger things. He will represent our entire community in Albany and continue to fight for public education.

John officially signed his oath of office on December 16th. We finally have a Senator for the 50th district! Congratulations Senator Mannion!

(Photos by Jennifer Mannion)



President's Notes (Michael Perkins)

On December 16th, the same night John Mannion resigned his position as our union president, I officially took over leadership of the WGTA. In my message to you that night I promised to continue leading with the same stability and attention we've experienced over the past seven years. On that same night, the WGTA cabinet also moved to fill the opening of vice president of the union. Congratulations to Dawn! Over the past two years she has been our vice president of grievances. She has a great deal of experience representing teachers in the WGTA. Moving forward, I will be looking to fill the vacant position of vice president of grievances on January 13th at our next cabinet meeting.

With changes to our WGTA executive positions, I want to give you some updates on specific topics related to the union:

SLC

Superintendent's Liaison Committee will be starting up in January. We have been holding biweekly emergency meetings with the administration since August. Please send me concerns that you want submitted to SLC. We will post notes from the meeting in our newsletter. You will find the notes to the last meeting below.

SLC Notes - 11/19/2020

1. Is the District willing to give building access to staff during non-school hours? Sometimes staff needs to get into the building, especially considering all of the shifting teaching and learning requirements, during non-school hours. Can the District look into allowing staff into the building during non-school hours that does not require custodial assistance/presence in the building?

David Bills is open to doing this. They will have to look into how this would affect cleaning. Use of the building does affect custodial staff. The district would want custodial staff to be available to clean and disinfect rooms after use. This topic will be addressed by the new assistant superintendent of management services.

2. Is the district going to send home information to families about holiday travel and expectations for returning to school after Thanksgiving? In addition how do we as a district address the problem of families not following county guidelines? We have students at sleepovers and large gatherings who are not following the county and state guidelines.

The district is aware of how people are choosing to act and have shared their concern with the public. The superintendent and principals are sharing their ideas about being safe through blogs and weekly messages to the public. The district is not going to do the job of the county.

Negotiations

The West Genesee Teachers Association will officially start negotiations meetings with the district when we return in January. I will be sending out an email to all members reviewing the data we collected last year related to priorities for negotiations. In addition, I will also be providing you with a google form where you can share any updated concerns you might have about negotiations. As we move closer to an agreement, we will plan a general membership meeting to review the proposed contract.

Controlled Video Instruction MOA

Recently I sent all teachers a recent agreement that the WGTA developed with the district related to controlled video instruction. Controlled video instruction (CVI) is use of online tools like ZOOM and GOOGLE MEET to synchronously provide instruction to students. In the agreement we have established that use of CVI will not be used to observe and discipline teachers. The agreement also works to protect teachers from unauthorized recording of CVI sessions. The WGTA and the West Genesee Central School District are currently working on a letter and process for reminding students and parents that recording remote learning is off limits.

COVID-19

We have seen somewhat of an exponential spread of the COVID 19 virus since Thanksgiving. As we celebrate the winter holidays and rest from all of the hard work we all put in this first half of the school year, let's remember to be safe by practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

Recently, new changes have developed for mandatory quarantine. It looks like the CDC has changed the quarantine length to 10 days instead of 14. On that same note, if you do develop symptoms of COVID 19 please contact the district as soon as possible so that they may plan accordingly for when school starts back up on January 4th.

What Next?

We've all experienced a lot in the past year and we're all looking forward to a return to life after COVID. Working with the district we've been able to get our students back to school this year and provide a much better educational experience compared to the spring. I want to thank you all for your hard work and commitment to our students and the profession of teaching. I will continue to put your concerns and well being as top priority when working with the district on COVID related issues and whatever we might have to deal with next.

Have a restful, happy, and healthy holiday!

Yours in solidarity.

Michael Perkins
President
West Genesee Teachers' Association



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VP Grievances



The Back Page

Your guide to services, deals, and promotions for the
WG education community

We want to advertise for you! Are you an artist, a carpenter, a house painter looking to advertise your services? Advertisements in “The Member ship” are provided free to West Genesee Teachers' Association Members and their family.

Please send your advertisement to Shana Michel (WGHS) at shanamccaffrey@gmail.com. The only other advertisements that are run in “The Member Ship” are those provided by NYSUT, AFT, or the AFL-CIO.

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