

WDEA Representative Council Minutes

October 8, 2020

Site Reps in Attendance- Corey Lewis, Monica Sevilla, Heidi Michels-MWE, Robyn Chase, Patti Dearth-BES, Maggie Coshnear, Myron Kingsbury, Aida Herrera-Keehn-CCLA, Marilyn Deis, Janet Mulligan-WMS, Melissa Jones, Nadine McKoy, Andrew Murdock, Jaime Roberts, Jeff Hardie-WHS, Heather Kristensen-Alt. Ed., Lisa Needham-NCC.

September Minutes-Approved

Treasurer's Report- Sent in advance. We received \$2993 in CTA Dues. Also, Pete found out that there is a \$444 membership cost to SCEC. Pete will send the contact information to Shannan.

President's Report- Teachers are working hard and facing incredible stress. Online takes longer. If you had a behavior problem in class, you could solve it by talking to the kid outside. That isn't the case anymore, you have to figure out how to meet with the kid without a Zoom audience. The district is aware and understands the problem to some extent. Pete invited Lisa to his class. She was surprised by the lack of student engagement. Everyone around the county is facing the same struggles. The Superintendent is working with other Superintendents around the county to find solutions. At the same time, teachers need to work on making things more manageable for themselves. Let some things go. Set limits on all of your work. Create some of your own normal.

Negotiations Update- Distance Learning- After hearing from principals and teachers, the district has decided that we need to "recalibrate" Distance Learning. It is not producing the results we want and it is taking too much time and effort from everyone. Jeremy has been talking to other Superintendents in the county and they are all feeling the same. Admin will be meeting with school leadership and staff to work out some better systems for teachers and students. The district office sees how hard we are all working and wants to relieve as much stress as possible from our teachers.

Subs-The district is also working on a plan for substitute teachers. At this point, there hasn't been a need that was unable to be taken care of internally, but they know that they need a plan for the months ahead. Chris Canelake will be working on hiring subs and getting them trained for running Zoom meetings, etc. (Questions/comments-If we are planning asynchronous, just missing synchronous, should it be a half day? Teachers should use PN for Mental Health Days. We need to be proactive for this. MWE has parts of a sub plan in place, it needs to be pulled together and activated.)

Plan for In-Person School- Developing this plan is going to be a complex process. It is going to be done mindfully with clear guidance from public health entities. Our goal in developing the plan is to keep the risks to students and staff as low as possible. This is not something that will be rushed. It will happen step-by-step with the health of all being the highest priority. It will be tied to the conditions and metrics of the colors the State of California is using. Philosophically, the district is not anxious to bring people back until it is safe. It will be phased in.

NCC has requested a member on the Negotiations Team. This is decided by the President and approved by the Exec Bd. Since they have members in places we don't have site reps, it is probably a need. Exec Bd should be able to make a decision fairly quickly.

Voting on the MOU- Pete wants to combine this with the Exec Bd vote. He will develop a Google Form and send it to Robyn (Chase) Hale.

Environmental Justice Committee- Motion was made and carried to have this committee. The Exec Bd will work on the part they need to do to move forward. The committee will convene as whomever wants to come and then the group can decide how they will move forward.

Social Justice and Equity Committee- Motion was made and carried to have this committee. Pete will send out an email and links from CTA. As with the Environmental Justice Committee, the committee will convene and decide on how it wants to move forward.

Site Reps- Hold monthly Zoom meetings at your site. Share communications from Pete, updates from CTA/WDEA, collect issues and work with principals. Pete wants “principals to feel like part of WDEA.” Your staff working with principals should generate solutions to problems.

Exec Bd Elections- There were no nominations besides the incumbents in each position. The vote will take place in the next week or so.

Just Say No- Members need to start questioning when new things are added to our plates. The district says that they know we are all struggling, and yet they keep asking more of us. We need to say that enough is enough and not accept any more without something being taken away. For example, Illuminate is voluntary. If it doesn't help you, or fit a need you have, DON'T do it. The more we do, the more our protests of how hard things are seem exaggerated.

Prop 15- Big money is buying lots of misguiding ad space about Prop 15. We need to make sure that we get out the word to family and friends that it is not going to raise taxes. It is going to bring taxes of big corporations into line with where they should have been. Pete will send talking points from CTA for members to share with voters they talk to.

SST's –CCLA was told these are not happening. This does not seem to be the case at other sites.

Motion to adjourn

Next meeting November 12, 2020 3:45-5:15 via Zoom.