

Spring Lake Park Teachers United Executive Committee Meeting

October 25, 2023 - 4:38 PM

In-Person

Present

Scott Smith, President

Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary

Kari Walton, Treasurer

Jamie Ramirez, High School Rep

Mary Strohmayr, PT Rep

Whitney Worwa, CV Rep

Stephanie Sandvik, EC/ABE Rep

Marge Zobitz, Members Rights

Andrew Walsh, Membership Chair

Samantha Waibel, WC Rep

Kristine Powell, WW 7-8 Rep

Jessica Frank, NP REP

Blair Hanson, Member Rights and High School Rep

Absent

Doug Cox, WW 5-6 Rep

Erin Azer, EdMN Rep (guest)

Treasurer's Report: Kari Walton

SLPTU received an ACH Deposit for \$61.79. Discussion about moving and changing budget line items. These changes were based on budget line items that haven't been used recently. SLPTU needed to boost the Spring Social budget and create an Honorarium for Communications Director. With these changes, the bottom line of the budget will not change from last year to this year. The OFS Grant is also covering some of the costs such as t-shirts. SLPTU has a budget surplus. There is no need to raise SLPTU dues this year. A movement was made to pass the budget. Movement was seconded. Budget was approved.

Membership Report: Andy Walsh

86.6% of teachers in the district are members of SLPTU. Potential members include 35 new teachers and 24 returning teachers, making 59 potential members. There are 440 total teachers in the district. Everyone who is a member should be under standard Union deductions. Anyone who joins after 10/25 will pay scaled back dues.

Apprentice positions (mostly at the elementary schools) are not put in the teacher group because of their funding and their licenses.

When new members join, building reps are engaging with members to gain their personal contact details in order to receive SLPTU updates.

President's Report: Scott Smith

Scott met with Tony Mayer and Kaline Sandven a few weeks ago. The district is having difficulties filling paraprofessional positions and other certified positions. The district will compensate teachers if they need to cover for unfilled positions during their prep time or lunch. Tony and Kaline stated they would check in with these teachers weekly.

Tony and Scott also discussed each building's attendance expectations ex. calling home regarding student absences. Concerns from teachers about the time this requires. Building Representatives should keep the Executive Committee informed about how this is going.

SLPTU did not endorse anyone in the school board elections.

Potential surveys were discussed.

Education Minnesota:

MEA conference was well attended. Over 2,000 members attended sessions.

Building Reports:

EC/ABE - Only 1 teacher sub for all of Early Childhood.

CV - LiFT concerns regarding the time needed to use competencies. Some of the concerns were passed to the DSC. Some changes will be made to LiFT regarding competencies.

NP - Student behavior and follow through with behavior are the primary concerns. Staff have been physically harmed by students. Safety concerns for staff and students.

PT - Student behavior concerns.

WCSI - LiFT seems inefficient; at least one classroom teacher position remains unfilled

WW 5-6 - SpEd caseloads are too large. Admin attempted to hire paraprofessionals.

WW 7-8 - Behavior concerns; IEP minutes are not being met; unlicensed staff have been asked to meet SpEd direct IEP minutes. Caseloads for SpEd are too large. Admin have been informed. Some supervisors are on emails regarding SpEd concerns; they aren't replying. Team flex time is spent revamping schedules; prep times are shorter; class size concerns. Core classes are at 36.

HS - Questions about new office hours at the high school. Concerns regarding the new Resource Request Procedure. Student attendance during SET time—what do we do in an emergency if students aren't where they say they should be?

SLPTU BUSINESS:

New Membership Drive- EdMN says the best way to get people to join is speaking to them person to person. Scott is willing to assist building reps in having those conversations with potential members. It is challenging to reach potential members during workshop week. An idea is to consider using the District Kick-Off day to also hold a New Membership Drive. Goal is to reach 90% of district teachers enrolled in SLPTU.

Organizing Committee- Building reps need to reach out to members interested in getting more involved in joining the Organizing Committee. Members of the Organizing Committee would help plan SLPTU events related to contract negotiations. Organizing Committee to meet the last week of October via Zoom.

Negotiations Update- Some Negotiations Committee members met with district reps on Monday, October 23rd. The district requested to schedule official negotiation sessions. So far, there have been 3 meetings. In the last one, the district explained their budget projections and how SLPTU's proposal would impact those projections. Friday, November 3rd will be the 4th negotiation session. Some Districts around us have Tentative Agreements. Discussion around SLPTU proposals beyond salary schedule. Discussion around engaging community members.

Fall General Membership Meeting - No meeting is currently planned. If the meeting was centered around Negotiations, then more people would probably show up. Scott and Amy Hatchner, SLPTU co-lead negotiator, have discussed going to each building and giving an update about Negotiations. There is interest in doing this instead of a fall membership meeting. Scott requested building reps to send him a day of the week that works best for each building.

Communication Updates- Building reps keep getting new members' contact information.

SLPTU Gear Distribution- Gear store closes Oct. 27th. Orders will be out the week of Nov. 13th. A plan will be made when we have the gear to distribute to members by building.

Spring Social- Pick a date and contact Forgotten Star to reserve a date.

High School Building Rep - Motion made and seconded to make Blair Hanson a building rep at the high school. Motion passed.

Upcoming Dates

Executive Committee Meeting November 15th

Meeting adjourned at 6:17PM.

Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary