

Spring Lake Park Teachers United Executive Committee Meeting

September 20, 2023 - 4:30 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

Erin Azer, EdMN Rep (guest)
Andrew Walsh, Membership Chair
Samantha Waibel, WC Rep
Kristine Powell, WW 7-8 Rep
Jessica Frank, NP REP
Blair Hanson, Member Rights

Absent

Marge Zobitz, Members Rights
Doug Cox, WW 5-6 Rep

Treasurer's Report: Kari Walton

We have spent \$14,972 of the \$34,550 OFS grant. We have 60 days after the contract is settled to spend the rest of the grant money. Local Community Action Team (LCAT) stipends (\$100 per person) and individual stipends discussed. SLPTU has a healthy budget. State and national dues increased by \$0.71 per pay period. SLPTU local dues will remain the same until the budget is approved. Questions raised whether or not there is help for new teachers to join who can't afford the deductions due to union dues. Erin Azer will look into it.

Membership Report: Andy Walsh

All Tier 1 teachers can now be members. We have many new members (both new hires and joining for the first time). New hires who were union members in different districts still need to complete an application to become a member of SLPTU.

Community Action for Public Education (CAPE): Samantha Waibel

Shift CAPE to LCAT. SLPTU gave out a welcome back gift. It was well-received. Need to look at the OFS grant to determine how much money is left to spend on more items for members. Potential for a credit to members to buy items. Discussed having extra items for future members. Buildings might need to take inventory of items. Discussion of using the website to place Newsletters.

President's Report: Scott Smith

More people are attending 10 minute meetings than ever before. Encouraging members to document times we need to sub for colleagues. All Executive Committee members are up for reelection this spring. New SLPTU website launching soon.

Education Minnesota:

Some neighboring districts have experienced COVID outbreaks. EdMN has some trainings that might be coming up. Erin will send out an email to Ex. Committee members with her updates.

Building Reports

EC/ABE - Preschool teachers can now join SLPTU. Concerns about teachers not getting lunch periods.

CV - Meetings during prep period. All non-classroom staff have been told they will be subbing. Split classes are not happening. Concerns about EL and SpEd services.

NP - Teachers being used as paras. There are not enough paras hired to cover all the services in IEPs. New PLC form is being used as well. Setting 3 students with a para should not be counted on rosters, but if they do not have a para, the students will count as a member of the roster. Concerns about taking attendance during drills.

PT - Concerned about the teachers having to call home regarding student absences.

WCSI - Three classrooms don't have a permanent teacher. Concerns about EL and SpEd services. Woodcrest can use Teachers on Call due to lack of teachers.

WW 5-6 - No building report.

WW 7-8 - Questions about who can sub within the district--is a teaching license required or has that changed? IEP service concerns and caseload numbers concerns. Large class sizes all around. WWMS has two prep periods--what if one is a scheduled meeting and the other is your turn to sub? Then no prep time that day.

HS - Concerns about prep usage and meetings. There aren't enough paras to cover for teachers during prep to meet IEP accommodations.

SLPTU BUSINESS:

Executive Committee Meetings through December -

October 25th - in person meeting

November 15th - in person meeting

December 20th - in person meeting

Secretary role - Motion made to make Kelsey Cassidy the Secretary as part of Communications duties.

Budget Adjustments - We need to adjust the budget, so it is more in line with what we are currently using. Scott would like volunteers to go through the budget to discuss. Jamie Ramirez and Kristine Powell volunteered to help with this. Approve a budget at the next meeting.

Date for Spring Social - Desire to book a date early to alert the district and members.

Fall Membership Meeting - Last year, the fall membership meeting was Nov. 15th. Desire to move this to October and tie it to negotiations. Scott will send an email out to Ex. Committee regarding this.

10 Minute Meeting Building Schedules - Desire to have regularly scheduled 10 minute meetings in part to hold Committee members accountable to members. If building reps are having 10 minute meetings, please let Scott know to attend.

New Membership Drive - did not discuss

Communication Updates - Building reps have QR codes to help new members provide SLPTU with personal contact information.

Negotiations Updates - Scott summarized the meetings with the District and proposals for the new contract. In August, the District only responded to SLPTU's salary proposal. The District's stance is the salary schedule needs to be settled before other proposals. SLPTU is meeting with EdMN reps soon. Historically, SLPTU has settled a contract much sooner than most districts. Documents will be published on the new SLPTU website soon. Negotiations Committee members will host a Q&A on WebEx about the publication and negotiations process. With the unsettled contract, members on family insurance are paying for the increase in family health insurance.

Wearing Gear - Westwood Complex has decided to wear SLPTU gear on Wednesdays. Agreement to wear gear on Wednesdays across the district.

SLPTU Gear - Discussion regarding getting new gear. Kyle Detert and Kristine Powell offered to help Samantha Waibel with this.

Upcoming Dates

Meeting adjourned at 6:02PM.
Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary