

Spring Lake Park Teachers United Executive Committee Meeting

March 20, 2023 - 4:30 PM

WebEx

Present

Scott Smith, President	Mary Strohmayr, PT Rep
Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary	Whitney Worwa, CV Rep
Samantha Waibel, WC Rep	Marge Zobitz, Members Rights
Jamie Ramirez, High School Rep	Erin Azer, EdMN Rep (guest)
Jessica Frank, NP REP	Doug Cox, WW 5-6 Rep
Stephanie Sandvik, EC/ABE Rep	Kristine Powell, WW 7-8 Rep
Kari Walton, Treasurer	Andrew Walsh, Membership Chair
Blair Hanson, Member Rights and High School Rep	

Absent

Treasurer's Report: Kari Walton

Reimbursements and deposits have been made related to OFS Grant. Current SLPTU balance is about \$80,000.

Membership Report: Andy Walsh

There are 448 total teachers in the district. 398 teachers are members of SLPTU. There are 50 potential members. 89% of teachers in the district are members of SLPTU.

EdMN has a program for potential members to join now and pay full membership dues next year, so they can receive full benefits until the end of the summer without paying for dues until next fall. The dues free period is April - August. EdMN has a form for potential members who are interested in this option: <https://join.nea.org/minnesota/>.

President's Report: Scott Smith

SLPTU is still negotiating the preschool teachers' contract. According to changes passed during the 2023 legislative session, educators with a Tier 1 license and those working in preschool programs are included in our existing licensed staff bargaining unit. Preschool teachers in District 16 are similar to other bargaining unit members in that they are required to hold a license with PELSB and must have a 4-year degree. Prior to this year, preschool teachers were paid according to a salary schedule in the Community Ed program. Six of the eight preschool teachers in the district are members of SLPTU.

A grievance was filed by SLPTU on March 1st seeking each preschool teacher be placed on the ECFE salary schedule in the master agreement (Schedule E).

Education Minnesota:

As of March 18th, approximately 264 of 360 educator contracts have been settled around the state. According to EdMN data, salary schedule increases across the state averaged 4.32% in Year 1 of the contract and averaged 3.47% in Year 2 of the contract.

EdMN has introduced new legislative priorities including:

- Educator pay starting salary of 60K
- Pension reform and reduction in penalties
- Health care
- Teacher burnout

Monday, March 25th is EdMN's Educator Pay Day of Action from 3-6 p.m. [Registration and more details can be found here.](#)

Building Reports:

EC/ABE - Still negotiating with the district for preschool teachers' contracts. EC is fully staffed now.

CV - Members are needed to complete work multiple times when LiFT updates.

NP - Prototypes for next year have been proposed and feedback given about that.

PT - Concerns brought forward about changing prototypes every year. Ongoing concerns regarding student behaviors. Question was asked how teachers can change teaching assignments to a different building within the district. According to the contract: 17.02 (A) Any teacher desiring a transfer shall submit a written request to the Superintendent stating the specific assignment or nature of the assignment desired. (B) Such transfer request will be considered by the District in staffing decisions.

WCSI - Things are going well / no report at this time

WW 5-6 - Prototyping is ongoing for next year's school day, teaming, etc. Staff are concerned about changing things every year and staff are concerned about implementing competencies. There have been some improvements in implementing the Special Education model.

WW 7-8 - Members are wondering what happens with flows and behaviors. Feel like there is a need for more support staff. Positive changes regarding special education minutes.

HS - Implementation of competencies have been a point of concern all year. Some reports of complaints about workload disparities between 9/10 teachers and 11/12 teachers.

SLPTU BUSINESS:

Health Committee: The District Health Committee is looking at health insurance bids for the next two years as required by HITA law. We received 2nd bids from United Health, Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP), HealthEZ, Health Partners, and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. We did not get a second bid from Gravey. The district is waiting on final cost and benefits analysis. Next board meetings are April 9 and May 14. The district would like to make a decision regarding a health insurance carrier prior to April 9th. Open enrollment is scheduled for April 29-May 10. This might change. We will also be receiving bids on life insurance, long term disability, and dental. Changes to those are unlikely.

Staffing Notifications: District representatives have shared their timeline for notifying staff of their assignments for the 2024-25 school year. Notification to probationary staff will happen on or before April 12th. Notification of tentative assignments for next year is scheduled to occur between April 8 and 26.

- April 8-26: Staff placement for next year.
- By April 12th Probationary staff will be notified if they will be released or asked to return.

These dates may change based on factors or circumstances that may show up in an individual building or program.

OFS Grant: All receipts have been submitted. We are waiting on an official number from EdMN for SLPTU's portion of the costs.

Election Plan for Executive Committee Officers: Nominations for all Executive Committee positions will begin on Monday, March 25. Nominations will be open for 2 weeks. Elections will take place on or around April 10 using Election Runner. Voting will be open for at least 2 days. As part of his VP duties Kyle Detert has been running Election Runner. SLPTU will use a non-executive committee member to handle nominations and elections for the Executive Committee.

Spring Social Plan: Spring Social will be Thursday, May 2nd at Forgotten Star. This will double as our general membership meeting. There will be a report on progress at the next Ex. Committee Meeting.

Surveys: SLPTU surveys will be coming out in April about ongoing building concerns and Schedule C.

Upcoming Dates

Executive Committee Meeting April 17 at 4:30 PM in person.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 PM.

Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary