

Spring Lake Park Teachers United Executive Committee Meeting

September 16, 2026 - 4:30 PM

In-Person

Present

Scott Smith, President

Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary

Samantha Waibel, WC Rep

Jamie Ramirez, High School Rep

Andy Sowards, WW 5-6 Rep

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Erin Azer, EdMN Rep (guest)

Stephanie Sandvik, EC/ABE Rep

Michael Packingham, Membership Chair

Blair Hanson, Member Rights

Kristine Powell, WW 7-8 Rep

Whitney Worwa, CV Rep

Kari Walton, Treasurer

Absent

Dean Downs, NP REP

Treasurer's Report: Kari Walton

A conversation was had to potentially combine the OFS Grant line item and Social events in the budget. More conversations were had about adjusting various line items to fit the varying needs of the budget. Overall, the SLPTU budget is in good standing. The Executive Committee will finalize a budget at the next meeting in October.

Membership Report: Michael Packingham

SLPTU members will pay a total of \$919.36 in dues for the school year. The national and state dues went up this year by 75 cents per pay period. Deductions will begin October 30th and span 16 pay checks. Local dues have not increased compared to last year. A motion was made and seconded to approve the dues.

There are 465 eligible teachers for membership to SLPTU. 394 teachers are members with 71 potential members. SLPTU membership is at 84.7%.

President's Report: Scott Smith

Student Service Coordinators are no longer on the Teacher Master Agreement. The district has assigned these positions to the Unaffiliated Contract designation. The staff in these positions and SLPTU leadership have agreed to this change.

Negotiation Committee nominations will take place in November. Once the committee is selected, SLPTU will send committee members to the EdMN Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference in January 2027.

Education Minnesota:

Education Minnesota is seeking a Get Out the Vote lead at each local. Since SLPTU doesn't have one, some of these duties might be filled by building reps. Education Minnesota's stance is to vote for pro-education candidates. Education MN also recommends to vote early and in person. Erin Azer is available to help with these efforts.

Building Reports

EC - A discrepancy regarding the length of the duty day and the paid lunch period was addressed by SLPTU's Early Childhood representative.

CV - Last year, there were many concerns about parent pick up and flexing time. This year, CV has a teacher buddy system which has made pick up go much smoother. Last school year, many members at CV were attending meetings on multiple mornings of the week. This year, CV teachers meeting requirements have been reduced.

NP - No report at this time.

PT - No report at this time.

WCSI - Woodcrest has 6 meetings a month which is an improvement.

WW 5-6 - Some members have expressed concerns about the change in meeting start times. Concerns have been brought forward about student behavior calls that aren't being answered consistently and handled inappropriately.

WW 7-8 - No report at this time.

HS - Many teachers continue to have frustrations around implementing Competency Based Learning and using it for grading purposes.

SLPTU BUSINESS:

Member Rights - A motion was made to appoint Blair Hanson as the Member Rights Advocate. The motion was seconded. The motion carries.

High School Building Rep - There is an open position for a second SLPHS building rep. Jamie Ramirez will communicate this opening to HS staff.

Executive Committee Meetings through October - October 21st on WebEx. November 18th in person. December 16th on WebEx.

Member Contact Info - If any member is not receiving SLPTU communications, reach out to your building rep to get added to communication lists.

Homecoming Event - SLPTU will host a tailgating event. Volunteer roles have been filled by members of the Executive Committee SLPTU members who have volunteered.

10 Minute Meeting Building Schedules - All building reps should be scheduling the first 10 Minute meeting of the year. Suggested topics to cover in the initial meetings have been passed on to building reps by Scott Smith.

School board Mtgs. attendance -

October - High School

November - Westwood Middle

December - Westwood Intermediate

January - Woodcrest

February - Park Terrace

March - Northpoint

April - Centerview

May - Early Childhood

New Membership Drive - In lieu of a new membership drive, building reps will connect with new and potential members to answer any questions and share benefits of union membership.

Upcoming Dates

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.
Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary