Spring Lake Park Teachers United Executive Committee Meeting
October 21, 2026 - 4:30 PM
WebEx

Present

Scott Smith, President
Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary
Samantha Waibel, WC Rep
Jamie Ramirez, High School Rep
Andy Sowards, WW 5-6 Rep
Kari Walton, Treasurer
Erin Azer, EdMN Rep (guest)
Michael Packingham, Membership Chair
Blair Hanson, Member Rights
Kristine Powell, WW 7-8 Rep
Whitney Worwa, CV Rep
Stephanie Sandvik, EC/ABE Rep

Absent

Dean Downs, NP REP

Treasurer's Report: Kari Walton

The SLPTU budget remains healthy. Discussed the possibility of changing bank account types. The Treasurer will look into these options in order to gain higher yields on interest.

Membership Report: Michael Packingham

There are 446 eligible staff to be members of SLPTU. Currently there are 380 members with 66 potential members. SLPTU membership is at 85%.

President's Report: Scott Smith

Information will be coming to members about voting and voting for pro-education candidates. This will be done through building level Get Out the Vote events and general SLPTU communications accounts.

Education Minnesota:

Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference will be happening in January. There are scholarships available to locals.

Building Reports

EC - The duty day issue from last month has been resolved. Some preschool teachers are adjusting to needing to complete two event supervisions. There are some behavior issues that are unsafe. The building rep is meeting with leadership to address some of these issues.

CV - There is a perception that behavior flows are not being responded to in an appropriate amount of time.

NP - No report at this time.

PT - Special Education needs are really high including case loads, services, staffing, and student safety concerns. The building rep met with the building administrator about these concerns.

WCSI - The building rep has been speaking with individual members about the importance of voting as it is appropriate.

WW 5-6 - Some teachers have concerns regarding class sizes. Timeliness of administration response has led to some members feeling unsupported. The building rep talked with the building administrator about these concerns.

WW 7-8 - Student behaviors have started to escalate. Some staff are wondering if the current sub rotation model will continue. The perception by some staff is that the sub model works for administrators but not teachers. Class sizes are large and there isn't always enough furniture for the students in the classrooms. The building rep is going to meet with the building administrator about these concerns.

HS - Many teachers continue to feel frustration around implementing competencies

---

SLPTU BUSINESS:

Nominations for Negotiations Committee - Nominations for the committee will be accepted starting the week of November 30. Voting for committee members will begin the week of December 14. The elected members of the committee will be announced before the start of winter break.

Health Committee - The District Insurance Advisory Board met at the end of September. Key messages from that meeting are:

1. Our medical insurance fund balance remains healthy. Our fund balance remains within the recommended range, and our multi-year strategy of responsibly using reserves to moderate premium increases continues to work as intended.
2. Last year's 7% medical premium increase was on target. The increase helped maintain the financial health of our self-insured plan while keeping premium increases below the levels originally recommended by the Insurance Advisory Committee.
3. Our medical claims experience is trending favorably. Claims costs are stabilizing, with total medical claims decreasing approximately 6% over the most recent reporting period. These trends provide an encouraging outlook as we continue monitoring claims experience.

4. Our pharmacy cost increases remain below national trends. While prescription drug costs continue to rise, our pharmacy spending increased approximately 5%, considerably less than the national trends presented to the committee.
5. We are experiencing a decrease in total medical claims costs when many other employers continue to see increases. This is an encouraging development, particularly given the continued upward pressure on healthcare costs nationally.
6. We continue to explore opportunities to manage prescription drug costs. The District is evaluating additional strategies, including alternative pharmacy benefit arrangements, to improve cost efficiency while maintaining quality healthcare coverage for employees and their families.
7. Proposed statewide insurance legislation could significantly affect our health insurance program. The Minnesota Legislature will be considering whether to establish an Educator Group Insurance Program (EGIP) that could require Minnesota school districts to participate in a statewide health insurance pool. The legislation has not been enacted, and we will continue monitoring its development and potential implications for our employees and the District.

HCAL - David Muehe will continue to be SPLTU's Health Care Action Lead. He will help coordinate EdMN efforts to support legislative action that could lead to a state-wide health care pool for public educators.

Potential Members - Building Representatives will be engaging with potential members in each building to discuss the important benefits of union membership.

Get Out the Vote Events - Get Out the Vote events are happening at various buildings over the next few weeks.

School board Mtgs. attendance -

November - Westwood Middle

December - Westwood Intermediate

January - Woodcrest

February - Park Terrace

March - Northpoint

April - Centerview

May - Early Childhood

Upcoming Dates

Executive Committee Meeting -
November 18th @ 4:30, Westwood Staff Lounge
December 15th @ 4:30, WebEx

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.
Kelsey Cassidy, Secretary