

Lakes Region Council Meeting
November 16, 2017
Hart's Restaurant, Meredith, NH

Attendees:

Ally Snyder, Andrea Caruso, Angela Stutzman, Brenda Thibeault, Chris Long, Deb Williams, Debra Hamel, Edna Miller, Jessica Scudder, Joe Wernig, Jack Donovan, Karen McCloud, Kathy Smith, Kim O'Neil, Nancy Trowsdale, Rebecca Adorno, Sarah Thorne, Sue Dore, Terry Burlingame, Todd Hall, Tom Fish, Valerie Lemay, Troy Harris.

Celebration of American Education Week

1. October Minutes were not available. They will be reviewed at our next meeting along with minutes from November.
2. Approximately 25 people in attendance, so Hart's was able to waive the \$50 room fee.
3. Celebrations for American Education Week (Nov. 13-17) and ESP Day on Nov. 15th. Kim shared about what she does in her local to thank ESPs in the district. Each building holds a raffle and the winner receives a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant. A thank you to all NEA ESPs was sent out via email from Megan Tuttle, NEA-NH President. Most people do not celebrate until May during Teacher Appreciation Week, at which time they include ESPs and teachers.
4. We discussed sharing personal stories recognizing the contributions that our ESPs make to public education. Perhaps these stories from ESPs and teachers could be sent to Ally Snyder and could be shared on the NEA website or the Insider. Please try to collect some stories and email them to asnyder@nhnea.org.
5. Paraeducator Mentorship Academy: Kim O'Neil attended in October for this 2-day workshop facilitated by The Paraeducator Institute Team from the National Education Association. The team presented Para/Teacher Collaboration, as well as strategies and tools on Behavior Management in the Classroom.
6. Ally Snyder, our UniServ Assistant in Concord provided us with NEA-NH updates and talked about the NEA website which has a wealth of tools, strategies, ideas, and legislative updates. These are great resources at your fingertips. Ally, who also works with Irv Richardson on professional development and conferences announced that the ESP Conference is back!! It will be held in May and will be at a cost of \$25 for members. This conference has been gone for a few years, but we are happy that it is returning. A great way to get those PD hours at a very reasonable cost.
7. Laconia Membership Blitz: This was held in October for the Laconia school district. It was originally titled the NEA Listening Tour. Chris Long, our UniServ Director reported on its success. There was a team from all over the US who traveled to NH for this event. They were in all 5 schools from Tuesday-Friday to have conversations with both members & non-members about their needs and what NEA can do for them. Chris reported that they were in contact with 75% of employees in the district. It was very

well received and they are still in the process of compiling the data. We will have more to report at a later date.

8. Update on Negotiations in the region: Chris has completed 2 contracts which have been ratified by their associations and school boards, but will go to a vote in March. There are 7 more contract negotiations in process or scheduled to begin.
9. Chris Long also reported that there has been an increase in grievances concerning duty assignments that teachers are being asked to do during lunch times and prep times. Please be aware if this is happening in your districts and contact your building rep or association president. Another area of concern is physical contact with students. With all the media coverage of sexual harassment and abuse among celebrities, athletes and political figures, issues are being brought forward concerning educators touching students. Be careful of hugs, or any type of contact which could be misunderstood.
10. Chris Long shared the status of SB193 on school vouchers. It has been approved by the House Education committee and is now going to the finance committee. If approved, it will have a financial impact on the state of NH with an increased obligation to supplement school budgets.
11. Chris reported that SchoolCare has a 0.3% statewide average increase for premiums. This is great news for bargaining healthcare plans. He also shared that Anthem/HealthTrust SOS plan (site of service) has increased their care provisions, making this plan much more attractive.
12. Andrea Caruso from Prospect Mt. offered her services if anyone would like help to create an association banner.
13. Kim O'Neil has asked the regional council to help fund the cost of her attendance at the National ESP Conference in Orlando, Fl. in March, 2018. A motion was made by Terry Burlingame and seconded by Andrea Caruso to provide \$600 to Kim for travel, hotel and registration costs.
14. Ally Snyder provided us with a list of LR Council Meeting dates and venues. There is no meeting in December. Next meeting is January 18, 2018 at Patrick's Pub in Gilford. This will be a budget hearing. February 15, 2018 will be at Fugaky in Plymouth and Mike Reilly will present on NEA Membership Benefits. There is no meeting in March due to the Delegate Assembly. April 19, 2018 location to be determined, but it will most likely be the Annual Membership Dinner. May 17, 2018 will be our final meeting and it will be held at Hart's in Meredith.
15. Joe Wernig was the lucky winner of a \$25 gift card. Congratulations!

Submitted by Kim O'Neil, Lakes Region Council Co-Chair.