

Monadnock Regional Council

May 8, 2018

Keene, NH

Meeting started at 4:50 p.m.

Introductions

Members present:

Judy Smith – Winchester TA

Joan Franklin – Winchester TA

Lauren Elliott – Winchester TA

Shirley McLaughlin – Keene State College EA

Rachel Hawkinson – UD

Melissa Alexander – Monadnock ESSA

Marie Szymcik – Monadnock DEA

Shannon Fuller – Keene Paraprofessionals Association

Kristin King – Keene Paraprofessionals Association

Melissa explained that our budget this year was \$4,000 plus additional \$2,000 if we submitted a plan for it (which we did). The Council agreed to budget \$500 for the Children's Fund, plus \$400 per meeting, plus \$300 for extras. However, we have only spent \$518 on food for meetings so far this year. We need to vote tonight on what was proposed at our budget meeting, since it was not reflected in the minutes of that meeting. Melissa explained the Children's Fund and gave an example of a student who was not going to be allowed to attend prom because she owed lunch money to the District, students who need glasses, college application fees, mattresses for students. The Council had agreed to donate \$500 to the Children's Fund. Judy Smith made a motion to donate \$500 to the Children's Fund. Seconded: Marie S. All voting in favor.

How do we want to facilitate our June Council meeting? Last year we had our June meeting at Marlborough School, outdoors, and catered BBQ. It was fun!

Melissa discussed the *Janus* decision and the impact this may have on our NEA-NH budget and staffing levels.

Monadnock Region is entitled to two state-funded RA delegates and we can elect one region-funded delegate. The cost will be approximately \$1,300 for each delegate. Melissa explained the responsibilities

of delegates. Does the Council want to use regional funds to pay for a region-funded delegate? Melissa Alexander and Patrick Cogan will be attending as state-funded delegates. NEA-NH will not be sending delegates to the 2019 RA unless it is moved from Texas. Shannon Fuller moved: To not send a region-funded delegate to the RA. Seconded: Judy Smith. All voting in favor of the motion, except Melissa Alexander who abstained.

Melissa reported on the NEA-NH budget and decisions the executive board may be making. NEA-NH has decided to refund agency fees through the end of this year that have been paid in advance if the *Janus* case is decided against us.

Discussion of the April 20<sup>th</sup> rally and membership dinners.

Discussion of ESP locals and why some of them have lower membership density. Is it because of their low wages or high turnover? Can teacher locals discuss the value of union membership with ESPs who work alongside them? Melissa suggests that relationships are important in building union strength, whether you are in the same bargaining unit or not. Melissa discussed NEA member benefits.

We would like to ask Tara to survey the Monadnock Region presidents to find out when would be a good date to attend a Regional Council meeting in June. We usually meet on the second Tuesday, which would be June 12<sup>th</sup>. Would this date work for presidents, or would a different date be better? We want maximum attendance at our last meeting. Melissa will look for a location for the meeting.

UniServ Report :

### **Important Reminders**

1. Don't forget to turn in your contact yellow sheets! Due June 1<sup>st</sup>
2. Update membership information – we are here to help.
3. Order membership materials (e.g. calendars) online now
4. Early enrollment is still on! Get your new colleagues signed up.
5. Plan for new employee orientations – get your union (and/or NEA-NH) on the agenda now for back-to-school events

### **Locals bargaining this year:**

1. Association of Keene Tutors
2. ConVal Education Association
3. Hinsdale Federation of Teachers
4. Keene Education Association
5. Jaffrey-Rindge Education Association
6. Marlborough Education Association
7. Monadnock District Education Association
8. Monadnock Education Support Staff Association
9. Mascenic Education Association
10. Winchester Teachers' Association

*Resources:*

- *Are You Ready to Bargain? Checklist*
- *Base Salary Comparison Spreadsheet*
- *Base Wage Comparison Spreadsheet*

### **Project Veritas - secure your union meetings**

*Resources:*

- *What is Project Veritas?*
- *Security and Member Vetting*

### **NEA ESP Conference**

- Shannon Fuller (Keene Paraprofessionals Association) presented

*Resources:*

- *NEA Today Article*
- *NEA ESP Department Resources Webinar Announcement*

### **NEA Higher Education Conference**

#### **Student Membership (now called Aspiring Educators)...a great gift for interns!**

*Resource:*

- *Student Membership Information*

### **NEA-NH ESP Issues Committee Needs Monadnock Region Representatives**

*Resources:*

- *NEA-NH Committees*
- *NEA-NH Work Groups*

### **Upcoming Professional Development and Union Training**

- **NEA-NH ESP Conference** – May 12<sup>th</sup>. NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia will be the keynote speaker. There will be 320 breakout sessions on a variety of topics.
- **June dates TBD Leadership Academy** – By invitation only, this training is for newly elected officers or any officers who have not yet attended.
- **July 16-19 PACE Summer Summit** (400 people) This conference is for educators in the PACE districts to help them calibrate assessments and refine the performance tasks. Working with partners to design the content of the sessions and to find a location for

the conference. We are collaborating on this conference with the NH DOE, the New Hampshire Learning Initiative and the Center for Assessment.

- **July 30 – August 3, Summer Leadership Week at NEA-NH in Concord** – Free union training for all members (e.g. negotiations, grievance processing, building rep training, communications, etc.). Bring your teams!
- **August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, PACE Conference** (200 people) –This conference is for educators interested in learning more about competency based education and the PACE project. We are collaborating on this conference with the NH DOE, the NH Learning Initiative and the Center for Assessment.

**Incorporation – Please get this done if you haven’t already. We are here to help!**

*Resources:*

- *Why Incorporate?*

Melissa Alexander moved to adjourn at 6:24. Second: Shannon Fuller. All in favor.