

NEA-NH  
Western Region Council Meeting  
“Remote Session”  
Monday, September 21, 2020

Future dates: October 19, 2020, November 16, 2020, December 14, 2020, January 25, 2021, March 15, 2021, April 12, 2021 and May 21, 2021

The following members were in attendance:

Jen Aiken – Fall Mountain SS, Jen Bewersdorf – Kearsarge EA, Peggy Blain<sup>3</sup> – Fall Mountain SS, Karen Brown – Fall Mountain TA, Pamala Custer – Hanover EA, Steven Dayno – Lyme EA, Gwyn Dessert – Hanover SS, Mindy Felch – Lebanon SS, Lisa Ferrigno – Newport SS, Andrew Gamble – Lebanon EA, Kevin Hicks – Fall Mountain TA, Amanda Hughlock – Sunapee TA, Karen Ladd -NEA Uniserv Director, Donna Beth Murphy – Kearsarge EA, Theresa Scott – Newport SS, Jarrod Shaheen – Hanover EA, Cathy Stephens - Fall Mountain TA, Judy Sterndale – Hanover SS, Casey Sylvain – Grantham EA, Jen Weaver – Franklin, Tammy Yates – Sugar River EA

- Review and approval of the minutes from May 11, 2020 and June 15, 2020 meetings: Motion to approve as submitted
- Opening question referenced a previous discussion regarding NEA Hand Sanitizer: Still inconclusive at this time
- A quick review of the council’s budget: Typical funds, along with other suggestions are as follows:
  - Golf = \$250.00
  - New teacher “Welcome gifts” = \$500.00
  - Food
  - Gift certificates
  - RA Conference
  - COVID
- Slate of “officers” for the 2020 – 2021 school year:
  - Chair = Jen Bewersdorf: Nominated by Cathy Stephens, seconded by Jen Aiken – Accepted
  - Vice Chair = Andrew Gamble: Nominated by Jen Aiken, seconded by Tammy Yates – Accepted
  - Treasurer = Terrie Scott: Nominated by Jen Weaver, seconded by Cathy Stephens – Accepted
  - Secretary = Cathy Stephens: Nominated by Kevin Hicks, seconded by Karen Brown – Accepted
- Uniserv Director Update: Karen Ladd
  - There have been countless sessions to discuss school re-opening
  - MOA’s are up for ratification
  - It is critical to engage any/all potential members: Make joining fun = raffles, games etc
  - Don’t hesitate to invite Jeff Kantorowski to visit your local to discuss member benefits
  - Many reasons to celebrate
    - Made it through to this point!
    - Negotiators worked countless hours and labored to create MOAs
    - Presidents have kept their members informed

- NEA has chosen to keep electronic voting format
  - Finance/Membership deadline = October
  - Fall Conference = October → Virtual format to run throughout the month. This will allow for people to select various sessions to “attend” throughout the month
- Fairly small group of locals entering negotiations: (May be a good thing due to potential high number of grievances ☺)
    - Cornish EA
    - Fall Mountain TA
    - Lempster SS
    - Newport SS
    - Plainfield EA
    - Plainfield SS
    - Unity EA
- Executive Board Update: Jen Bewersdorf
    - At September meeting there was mention of remote learning becoming a permanent option
    - Obtaining and/or keeping substitutes remains very difficult
    - VLACS to increase their funds and double their capacity
    - Manchester aldermen → asking for families to take photos during remote sessions to “catch” educators making errors
- As opposed to our typical sharing by local, a general discussion ensued, regarding the following:
    - Concerns regarding hybrid, remote and in-person instruction
    - “Double” and “triple” dipping of our educators
    - Countless hours needed for remote planning (14 hours on a weekend at school!)
    - There are great concerns regarding liability with remote students
    - Family members being “present”
    - Hearing or seeing things that would otherwise be considered unacceptable (clothing/language)
- 6:31: Donna Beth Murphy – Motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Hicks/Karen Brown → Passed! ☺