

## **Southern Regional Council Meeting Minutes November 12, 2020**

**Present:** Lorri Hayes, Lisa Stone, Carolyn Leite, Michelle , Karin Pillion, Jim Slobig, Suzanne S, Megan Tuttle, Cindie Poirier, Brenda Hobbs, Larry Ballard, Darlene Gymziak, Lynne Bowler, Amy Hanson, Bea Martin, Brenda Messa, Susan Harden

Meeting was called to order by chair Lisa Stone. Our guest speaker, Megan Tuttle NEA-NH President, was introduced.

Megan started with the state of things after the election. NEA nationally was key in getting a Biden win and Lilly Eskelson-Garcia is being talked about nationally as Secretary of Education. Statewide we lost everything. The Governor, Legislature and Executive Council all went to Republican control which is not usually good for public education. Frank Edelblut's contract will most likely be renewed in the spring. Sununu is looking to run against Hassan in the next election for US Senate. Edelblut will most likely run for governor.

The next legislative session will be interesting. The Charter grant may come back in January. It may only be \$10 million this time for starting new charters only, not for upkeep and costs once they are running. Most charters right now in NH are not running at capacity. Why start new ones?

Right - to - Work legislation will probably be filed again, this time targeting the private sector instead because of the Janus decision being in place.

Question was asked about possibly having building aid in this next session.

Answer is probably not.

In FFCRA news, there is a government change in guidance about traveling outside of New England. After traveling there should be a 14 day quarantine or 7 day quarantine with a positive COVID test. COVID tests are free now, but will not be after Dec 31st unless the Congress passes some new legislation. Some districts are going remote from Thanksgiving until MLK day in January, but none that we know of in southern NH. School districts are now on their

own for contact tracing. DHHS will not be helping. Is this a liability issue for the districts? Can honesty impact employment and do we have a right to not disclose where we've been.? Megan was going to send a letter from NEA-NH to the Governor, DHHS, and the media around liability issues, instructional time , contact tracing etc .

Executive order 46 is concerning Worker's Comp. As of now, no schools are admitting to spreading cases of COVID. Primex (insurance) is concerned about districts' liability.

To sum up: it will be a long year!

We are hoping it will not take the death of a child or educator before the state takes responsibility.

"Remember, when politicians get out of the classroom, then we will get out of politics. Until then, our job is to be a pain in the butt to everyone in Concord." :) Thank you to Megan for being our guest speaker today.

Stories are needed about remote learning. What is happening? What should they know about in Concord? Encourage your members to share their stories with Megan.

Larry shared that decisions being made behind closed doors are being more restrictive.

With Thanksgiving coming, are schools surveying parents and teachers/employees about having to quarantine after Thanksgiving? ARE parents being honest on the surveys? Schools will not be able to open back up if too many staff are in quarantine.

Moving on...Minutes from October were presented. Lisa would like to have Brian Hawkins back to speak after the new legislative session begins. Carolyn made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brenda Hobbs. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Our balance is \$4,080.46. The only activity on the account this month was .03 interest. Karin made a motion to accept. Lisa seconded the motion which passed.

The \$10.00 dinner gift card was given away via the on-line wheel. Bea Martin was the lucky winner.

**Executive Board Report:** We went over the Ethics Policy and Board Policy which only needed updating with signatures. Not all committees are meeting yet. Budget committee is meeting next week. The GR committee has been very busy with the election.

**Uni-Serve Report:** Lorri has been busy negotiating and setting dates for negotiations. Salem and Bedford settled a one year deal. Windham, Hampstead and Milford are looking for multi-year agreements. There is no way of knowing the economic climate for the next few years which is making it difficult.

Dues deductions for union dues will most likely not be continued under the new legislature. Five years of probation for teachers can and very likely will be extended. We will have to keep our eyes on this next legislative session as there could be some very destructive policies coming out of it.

Gov. Sununu may not back all negative policies as he can't afford to alienate us if he mounts a Senate campaign.

The December training is with Eric Owen Ruessell. Did a flyer get sent out to locals? What other help can we provide for locals?

Should we charge regional dues this year? We had agreed on \$1.00 per southern region member. We had \$24,000 coming in. Given our state in conducting meetings remotely, we are not using much money. Lisa Stone made a motion to suspend local region dues for this year. Carolyn seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Lorri will look to NEA-NH members to provide racial justice training instead of a costly presentation from NEA national. We had some members trained as presenters recently.

Brenda Hobbs reminded everyone that National E.S.P. Day is Wednesday November 18th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Susan Harden, seconded by Carolyn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan M. Harden  
NEA-NH Southern Region Secretary