

Southern Regional Council
January 14, 2021 Minutes

Present: Michele Martell, Lisa Stone - Chair, Karin Pillion, Gerry Gadbois, Cindie Poirier, Jim Slobig, Lisa Heney, Amy Hanson, Carolyn Leite, Jennifer Slmon, Larry Ballard, Lynn Bowler, Bea Martin, Brenda Hobbs, Lorri Hayes, Susan Harden

Secretary Report: The minutes mention the DA. There is still no date set for the DA yet. Motion was made to pass by Amy, seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Balance is now \$4.080 52. There was .03 interest. Karin still needs to reimburse herself \$27 for the nonprofit status report.

Motion by treasurer, Karin, seconded by Jenn. Motion passes.

There are no budget meetings set yet due to no DA date set yet. The Racial Justice presentation has been moved back to April.

Executive Board Report: The December EB was conducted mostly in executive session. Some business that was discussed outside of executive session was that NEA-NH has voted to boycott the 2022 R.A. in Dallas for Dallas' record of right's discrimination.

January 15 is the filing date for NEA-NH elections. There are two So. Regional Reps. seats open.

NH is the only state where teacher vaccinations are in stage 2 and not stage 1b.

The GR committee will be looking to the regions to get out information to members on the 2021 legislative session.

Uniserve Director's Report: All negotiations concluded with no mediation needed. There were positives in every contract in wages.

The December 2020_Federal Schools Grants for COVID costs was shared. This money can go to PPE, salaries for extra staff, and any other COVID related costs. It is three times more than the last spring grant. A Right - to-Know request can be made to find out what each district has used its grant money for.

Federal authority gave districts the green light to mandate COVID vaccines. There are religious and medical exemptions only. We should be asking districts for incentives to get the vaccination such as time off to get the vaccination and in anticipation of the second shot making people sick, extra sick time. Also, school district meetings (Deliberative Sessions) can be put off this year or changed because of COVID.

For vaccinations, is there any recourse on getting the vaccine if it is mandated? Not much except for the exemptions listed above. Find out how districts are going to handle the vaccination - on site, off site, during work hours (which should happen if it is mandated).

Questions about school safety came up. It seems that school safety is taking a back seat this year to COVID concerns. This is upsetting to us as mental health issues in communities because of COVID are increasing in communities and anti-teacher sentiment is rampant on Facebook sites, especially in Amherst after a student suicide. Are superintendents aware of what is going on and should they be censuring town and school pages?

Answered with a resounding no and most are aware of what is going on.

February agenda is supposed to be working relations between paras and teachers/True Colors by Megan Tuttle.

March is suicide prevention training.

April will be Just Schools/Racial Justice given by Misty Compton
NEA-NH member

Motion to adjourn was made by Lisa Stone, seconded by Gerry.
Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Harden
So. Region Secretary