GEA Minutes

April 2, 2019

Call to Order: 3:30 pm

Present: Grassett, Sinclair, LaRoche, Sargent, Damboise, McCain, Lawes, Landano, Lee, Lacasse

Secretary’s Report: Accepted

Treasurer’s Report: The balance is $39,737.37. Accepted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship: Mary will send out a form to the high school (it is accessible from the website) to get applicants. That is in May. Scholarship night should be June 6. The fundraiser went very well; we will have it again next year (at least once).

Grievance: None at this time.

Negotiations: The school board approved the contract last night; it has yet to be sent and signed.

Elections: Chris Whiteman from the high school will run for representative. Jeanie Roy is stepping down, but will assist Chris with stepping into this role. Derek Landano and Stephanie Anifant will also be representatives at Maple Ave. Kristi Damboise is running for Treasurer and Ginny Sinclair is running for Vice President for negotiations, both unopposed. Glen Lake still needs an additional rep, and Bartlett is still undecided. If the schools elect their candidates this week the election will be held by Tuesday, 4/9.

Website: Up and running.

Social: Nothing at this time.

Constitution: Derek suggests that it needs editing; Ginny suggests a committee is a more appropriate way to address these issues. Derek has the concerns in a separate document which he will send to Mary. 3-4 people is the agreed upon number of people to be assembled for the committee to take on these issues; Mary and Mark volunteered to take this on with Derek. The issues with the constitution cannot be amended without at least 2/3 majority vote of the “quorum” which has not been defined.

Sick Bank: No one has put in for sick bank time.

NEA-NH: Delegate assembly: Kristi and Kathy report that dues are raising $6.42 to $466.91. Derek asked Kristi to put together notes from the delegate assembly to add to the website and distribute to interested members.

Old Business: The sign at the ball field is still an issue; no one can see it. Kathy has reached out to the ball field asking about where the sign is. Next year a new member will have to stay in contact with the ball field. It was an expensive sign; it should be easily visible. Sarah Matatall’s husband will be contacted to get details about the sign.

New Business: Moving money for deaths: Kendra needs to send a note to a member letting her know there’s been a donation made in her mother’s memory to the scholarship fund.

A member brought up that she was told by administration via her school mailbox after work hours on a Friday that her grades were due the following Tuesday. Therefore, should there be something in writing about a reasonable amount of time given for teachers to submit grades, especially for students in the lower grades who are assessed in narrative form? There is nothing in the handbooks to describe this from the district level. Ginny feels that this is not a union level issue, but an individual school/building level issue. Kristi feels that this issue should be addressed by the GEA to support teachers and provide them with enough time to do appropriate grading. There is not a district-wide expectation. The suggestion is that teachers at Bartlett should approach administration to have clear expectations for how long they will be given to complete their narrative grades, and if there are still issues with the response, the GEA will discuss the problem further. Mary asked Kristi to reach out to the member to let her know our suggestions for approaching this issue, and to let us know how the conversation goes.

AT MVMS, teachers are asked by administration to change any student grade below a 55% up to 55%, however this is against the law according to the code of ethics. Mary had a meeting with the SAU, and the district said that they would accept responsibility if a teacher were to come under scrutiny for changing a student’s grade. The SAU also has concerns about the code of ethics, to be discussed at a future meeting.

Derek mentioned that he had heard that teachers aren’t allowed to accept liquor store gift cards, but there is nothing in writing stating that this is not allowed. NEA’s suggestion is to document any “gift” from a child.

Derek has concerns about potential mistakes made on the new contracts sent out by the SAU.

Next meeting: May 7

Meeting adjourned: 4:24 pm

Respectfully and quite poignantly submitted,

Julie Lawes