

Rep. Council
3:30 Elementary, 4:00 Secondary
Aug. 24, 2021, Wood High School Library
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Members in Attendance: See Attachment

Meeting Called to Order: 3:40

ELEMENTARY SESSION 3:40

Todd opened the meeting by asking how the elementary were handling Back to School Night. Each school has a relatively similar plan, with a drop in policy with small variations.

You have the right to insist that parents must wear masks during Back to School Night. If they refuse, ask them to leave. You also have the right to not hold/show up at Back to School Night because you aren't comfortable with being there.

COVID CONCERNS

Different information is coming out from the office staff vs what teachers have been told at several school sites. There are also concerns about what we should be sending home for students to work on during quarantine. Packets have been sent out by the district that we can print out and send out.

➔ Could the office print out the packets and have them ready to go?

There is a lot of concern about having large groups of students out for a large amount of the week. Is there a way to bargain to Zoom in the Room for our students who are put on quarantine?

➔ The state doesn't want this to happen and wants our students back in the classroom. At a union level, we may lose teachers if they are forced to Zoom in the Room again.

There was discussion about different protocols for quarantining students, distancing students, etc.

Hemlock is currently experiencing class size issues. One first grade class has 30 students. They also have been impacted by a sub shortage and the ELD and RTI teachers have been asked to step in to sub.

➔ Can we ask that they send people from the district office or use administrators to sub instead? If not, can those teachers be compensated for the loss of prep?

Ryan Galles sent an email before school started asking elementary teachers to take on ISP students (100% remote learners) with 10-20% compensation depending on the number of

students. However not enough people accepted the positions and the district may have to collapse classes and transfer teachers to remote positions. They are looking at needing 3 full time teachers or 20 teachers to accept 3 students.

- 1. Approval of the minutes** None presented to approve
- 2. Approval of the agenda** Seconded by Mikayla Waugh an Approved without objection
- 3. President's Report: Todd Blanset**

Todd reviewed what each member present was asked to do as site representative and what positions people hold on Exec Board. He also reviewed who to contact if you have questions.

Teachers have rights in regard to Back to School Night, including insisting parents wear a mask and not attending if they feel unsafe.

We are actively looking for elementary directors to fill the open positions.

- 4. Treasurer's report: Brenda Hensley** (Paper copies of the reports were supplied by Brenda)

Approval of the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Corey Penrose and approved without objection

A dues breakdown was provided to be posted at each school site

The preliminary numbers for site funds were provided but they will be updated as member numbers solidify.

A few small changes were made in the budget categories to provide clarity based on feedback from the spring meeting. No money was moved

- 5. Bargaining: Brenda Hensley**

Megan Morris was added to the bargaining team to fill the vacancy left by Tessa Craig. (Passed at the previous Exec Board meeting.)

The bargaining team is currently working on school closure language. The district is only permitted to close for a total of 15 days this school year, regardless of reason.

We are still waiting on this year's enrollment numbers to know if we can bargain for an increase in pay. Elementary numbers are down but secondary are up.

- 6. Grievance: Lisa Cusi**

Grievance has been contacted by many teachers, particularly at the secondary level about Back to School Night. There are concerns around teacher safety with large numbers of people

moving through their classrooms, as well as discomfort around policing parents' and their mask usage.

- Corey Penrose made a motion to have Todd, Lisa, and Jordan talk to the district about cancelling Back to School night.
Teri Carolle has concerns about cancelling at this point because communication has already been sent out to families.
There was question as to how cancelling the event would affect the minimum day on Friday, 9/2. Lisa said making a video could satisfy the time requirement.
- Corey amended his motion to not cancel but instead move it to a virtual platform.
- It was asked if Back to School night could be reimagined in a way to keep everyone outside.
- A motion was made by Chris Fickes to call to question the amended motion.
MOTION PASSED – 26 yes, 5 no, 0 abstained

7) Committee/Chair Reports

-Equity Team: Alyson Brauning

Tricia Kallan has finished the main part of the multicultural/equity calendar. It has been added to the website and Todd will be sending it out.

Alyson gave an LGBTQ youth presentation at Hemlock before school started. She can give presentations to other school sites. This would be after school or could take the place of a staff meeting. If it is afters chool it could possibly be a yellow card activity. Training is going to be mandatory for grades 7-12.

-Member Engagement: Alyson Brauning

Exec Board is going to be making after school site visits as requested by members. Reps will be asked to coordinate with the director to meet with the Exec Board members on campus.

-Action: Corey Penrose

Corey gave a brief overview of the VTA website and where we can direct members to find answers to common questions. If you see any mistakes or problems, please let him know.

-Labor Council: Corey Penrose

Corey deferred to Glenn Branaman to discuss Labor Council. A Labor Day breakfast has been planned and tickets are available for \$25 a seat. Labor council is also looking for phone bank operators for the election. Email either Corey or Glenn if you would like more information.

-PAC: Corey Penrose & Ariel Ray (PAC treasurer)

Corey gave an overview of PAC (the purposes and activities). He explained the importance of supporting PAC for our local community. PAC money is used to ensure the community understands the beliefs of the union and helps to keep people on the school board who share our values.

-Special Ed:

Shannon Cole and Cynthia Coble are joining Exec Board as Special Education representatives.

-Leave Bank: No report

- Membership: Tracy Begley (absent)

Todd has touched base with a lot of the non-member teachers to help address concerns or to sign them up for the union. He also asked that if reps know of any non-union members at their site to encourage them to join for legal protections.

Brenda asked if membership cards will come in the magazine this year. Alyson is checking.

8) New and continuing business:

Brenda presented bylaw changes that will even out representation by directors between elementary and secondary. She also is looking at realigning some sites/positions in order to even out representative positions.

Alyson brought up a case of a member who opted out of her union and then needed representation in a school matter. She had to pay out of pocket for her lawyer. Our dues will cover us for up to \$1,000,000 in fees.

Todd will be emailing lists of nonmembers by site to representatives.

9) Conference reports

Region 1 Conference is scheduled for September 23rd. It is virtual and CTA will pay for units for members. If you submit your CTA units to the district and they are kicked back, contact Todd. They should be approved.

10) Other:

SECONDARY SESSION

Kimme would like to have 2 representatives

Class sizes at Vaca High are very high. Wood numbers are not quite as high at this point. If teachers are being pushed to exceed their cap, please let Todd know.

Wood teachers are concerned about students who are wearing masks incorrectly or are being blatantly disrespectful when asked to put them on correctly. They are getting inconsistent support and advice from admin, and they aren't able to get any straight answers. Todd will be contacting the principals directly to discuss consistently and fairly enforcing mask mandates.

Vaca High has seen an uptick in fights this year.

There is concern at Sierra Vista that the same teachers are getting all of the students with an IEP.

Many schools are currently down paras and campus supervisors.

– Adjournment 5:39