

SVFT Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

President Ed Leavy called the meeting to order, via Zoom, at 4:02 P.M.

M/S/V to accept the minutes of March 2020 Executive Council meeting

Emily Lozinak's Treasurer's Report:

- Emily reviewed the Income & Expense Report from March 2020. Items discussed were as follows:
- Total Income for the month was \$96,531.25
 - Item 4200 Rebate Income \$9,250.07
(AFT-CT Rebate for December 2019)
- Total Expenses for the month were \$82,540.19

Line items of note included

- Items 6095 Grievances \$900.00
Case fee
- Item 6135 Donations \$250.00
Donation in honor of Yolanda Grant (100 Women of Color)
- Net operating income for the year to date is \$92,842.36

Reminders:

Change in Mileage Reimbursements \$0.575 per mile as of January 1, 2020

Treasurer's GM meeting Report (pending audit) M/S/V

Bob Riccitelli EUR Report:

Administrative Leave

- 3 Members (1 hopefully coming off soon)

Arbitrations

- None

Grievances

- Level 2 – Summer stipends
- Level 2 – Wright Tech Class Size

Complaints

- None

Fact Findings

- Showing an inappropriate Video in class

Union issues

- HR wants to move forward with Grievances and Fact Finding. We have a right to caucus with our members during a fact finding. How we are going to do that is the issue.
- DCF Reporting and Google Meet (Bob advises no one to use video function)

Resolved

- Reimbursement for CDL (2 members did not get code in time)

Posting (as of 3/31/20)

- 29 Active
- 4 Filled in the Month of March

Paul Angelucci's Vice -President's Report:

Paul discussed the following:

Teacher of the Year elections : Postponed pending return to school. If need be, election in September for 19-20 school year, then again in May for 20-21.

New Hire Update, we've had three members start on March 27th all are remotely teaching at this time, we also have four new members starting on April 24th I've been in touch with them as well.

Scholarship Committee: Deadline will be moved to June 1. Materials can be submitted electronically wherever possible. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted if official ones are not available.

The SVFT Secretary election will be postponed until we return to school.

Ed Leavy's President's Report

Ed shared the following:

Things have been incredibly chaotic these past few weeks with seemingly nobody and everybody in the system's administration making decisions.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed and has been distributed to members. Of special concern are (1) Item number 5 mentions specifically that Google Meets video is NOT a requirement. Also, (2) any mention of spring sports coaches not being paid was removed. We will ask for pro rata payment for all coaches based on when/if sports are canceled.

Ed strongly suggests that members END their workdays by 3:00 P.M. "Turn off your computers," he said. He noted that that may be the best way to try to preserve some semblance of a work-life balance, especially for our hundreds of members with young children who need care and lots of help with their online learning.

Apparently many schools are moving to 5-day cycles starting next week. Platt administration claims there was a staff survey preferring a 2-day rotation, but we may FOI the survey and the results to verify this.

The 14 days of COVID-19 leave that state employees can get should be strongly considered by members who are feeling overwhelmed. Many have conveyed that it is very difficult to teach while caring for children or older parents at home. Ed repeated that caring for our members' mental health is a top priority.

Building Rep Q and A (Questions submitted through the Zoom chat function)

Special Ed/IEPs? - Apparently, in an encouraging development, teachers have been added to a committee to help determine how these will happen going forward. Mike Altenberger and Gail Houlihan (and perhaps others) are on this committee which is a good sign as they are highly respected teachers.

How will members find out Google Meets video is not required? - Ed sent the MOU to all members. Reps and officers will continue to help spread the word.

How will we handle vacant building rep positions? - Elections will wait until we return to school.

Advice for members getting flood of emails from parents/students? - Turn off your

computer at the end of the workday. Ask to attend fewer online admin meetings.

How can we combat the conflicting information/misinformation we are receiving from superintendents, building administrators, and consultants? Ed has asked that messages to staff from consultants and administrators be cleared by a superintendent before sending. Not sure if that will happen, but we are hopeful.

Can PPT meetings require us to attend via Google Meets video? NO!!!!!! (It is clearly stated in the MOU).

Can members, especially shop teachers be made to go to school or job sites to pick up tools/equipment? Short answer, no. Maintenance can handle in the building and administration at the production sites.

Many schools just received school calendars with incorrect end dates. Now what? Shocked (not shocked) that C.O. has messed this up. We have asked for corrections.

March 16-30 counted as workdays? Why no April vacation? Ed: we tried to get an April vacation, but the superintendent said no. The second week DID count as work.

Apparently the Humanities consultant/supervisor mentioned some new initiative at a meeting the other day? Roundly criticized there by almost all SVFT members in attendance, she is pressing ahead. She also was concerned about summer reading in meeting with librarians (?). Ed: People at central office DON'T CARE about you, your families, your students, they only care about their resumes and the next job they can get. Also, the superintendent does not seem to be able to rein in people who work for him. Ed reminded him that those people are his employees and that they can be disciplined and/or terminated.

Ed also stressed again that this is the time to focus on self-care. Folks who feel overwhelmed by this unprecedented (in our lifetimes) pandemic SHOULD STOP WORKING.

He also encouraged members to continually cite the MOU which guarantees flexibility for us.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

2020-2021 SVFT Budget: Emily discussed the budget process and the proposal for next fiscal year. Motion to accept - Fred H (Cheney) Second- Bob M (Whitney) Vote- Unanimous

Good and Welfare

As with everyone around the world, many of our members' families have been affected deeply by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have suffered losses of family members and friends.

We also have several members who have added new family members. We wish them and their new children health and happiness.

Shaun D (Wright) mentioned the passing of Karen Wilson (Asst. Bus.Mgr) from COVID-19 complications.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Beyer, SVFT Secretary