

SVFT General Membership Meeting

May 11, 2022

Hybrid – Executive Council in Person at Wilcox Tech, Membership on Zoom

Zoom Poll opened at 5:00 for members to take the poll for our membership quorum.

5:05 Meeting called to order by Paul Angelucci

We have a quorum.

November General Membership Minutes M/S/V

April Executive Council Meeting Minutes M/S/V

Treasurer's Report Emily DelPiano

- Emily reviewed the Income & Expense Report from March 2022. Items discussed were as follows:

- Total Income for the month was \$98,371.37
 - **Item 4200 Rebate Income \$9,397.50**
AFT CT Rebate for February 2022
 - **Item 4350 Miscellaneous Income \$116.97**
Refund for over payment on Postage Meter
- Total Expenses for the month were \$81,227.18
 - **Item 6050 Group Health Insurance (\$917.61)**
Ferguson Doyle & Chester payment made for Dec, Jan. Feb
 - **Item 6097 Negotiations \$815.26**
Payment for EZvote for online contract vote
 - **Item 6182 IRA (316.80)**
Ferguson Doyle & Chester payment made for Dec, Jan. Feb
- Net operating income for the year to date is \$129,788.42

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

Executive Union Representative's Report Bob Riccitelli

Administrative Leave

9 for the 2021-2022 school year

- 3 Past
- 6 currently

Grievances

26 Level 1 grievances

- 9 favorable
- 1 Denied
- 16 forwarded to Level 2
- No pending

16 level 2 Grievances

- 8 favorable
- 1 Stipulated Agreement
- 1 Withdrawn
- No pending

Arbitrations

6 for the 2021-2022 school year

- 3 settled by stipulated agreement
- 3 going to Arbitration in September

Complaints

3 Complaints filed for the 2021-2022

- 1 for unprofessional conduct

- 1 for Misuse of state property
- 1 for CDF failure to report.

Fact-Findings

- None

Non-Renewals

- 4 for this year

Disciplinary Hearings / Loudermills

- None

Union issues

- DCF referrals – YOU have 12 hours to report.

Questions for Bob

- What if there is a student on student issue? Should I call DCF?
Play it safe, call DCF. We have gotten very different messages from different DCF workers. It is better to call and have it not be an issue than to not call and have it be an issue.
- When was the last day for non-renewals?
April 1st. This applies to non-tenured teachers.
- When is the last day for administrative transfers?
May 15th.

Vice President's Report Makenzi Hurtado

Committee Reports

Committees meet on varying intervals throughout the year, as needed.

We are halfway a two-year term for committee members.

At the end of next year there will be an opportunity for people to join committees. This is a great opportunity to get involved in our union and represent your school, department, or trade.

- **Political Action Committee:**
Has not met.
- **Trade Advisory Committee:**
Has not met.
- **Constitution & By-Laws Committee:**
Met October 7th.
- **Contract Negotiations Committee:**
Met consistently until contracts negotiations ended. They have a break for a while!
- **Teacher of the Year Committee:**
All schools chose a teacher of the year.
These teachers will be celebrated on May 19th.
- **Budget Committee:**
Met on March 29th to finalize and vote on the budget.
New budget was presented to the Executive Council and passed to be presented tonight.
- **Grievance & Arbitration Committee:**
Meets on a regular basis.
Bob gave an overview in his report.
- **Minority Teacher Committee:**
Met with Dr. Solek on March 31st. It was an introductory meeting where the members were able to share concerns and goals. One thing that the committee asked was that the committee become a district committee. Dr. Solek agreed and made it a committee right at that moment.
MTC is meeting again on May 17th as a union committee. We are waiting for a date to meet with Dr. Solek in June.
- **Health & Safety Committee:**

Tours one school per month.

We tour all shops and science storage closets. This is an important time for members to share concerns.

Toured Platt Tech on April 7th.

Will be touring Norwich Tech on May 12th.

- **Labor/Management Committee:**

Meets four times per year. The last meeting was May 3rd.

Some issues have been consistently brought up all year: Special Education, curriculum and resources for teachers, support for shops, teacher mental and physical health, role of consultants/directors/supervisors

- **Scholarship Committee:**

Will meet on May 17th.

The deadline to submit applications is this Friday, May 13th, 3pm.

Awarded nine \$1000 scholarships and \$1000 towards mini grants.

Information is on our website and has been sent in email.

Communication:

On April 18th, I gave testimony on the importance of our contract being passed.

In PDEC meetings, we have been editing the department head evaluations. I, along with other SVFT members, have been advocating for evaluations that are more concise and useful. We are also working on having all DH evaluations be the same format. Dr. Solek and I are both in agreement that we need more teacher voices on this committee from more schools.

I created a new Facebook page. It is a public page. It is not a group. This means that anyone can see it. We use this page to share general information and positive news.

We are updating our website. Please reach out if there is information that you would like to see there.

We do not post committee minutes because there is confidential information discussed in many meetings. However, we do post all our Executive Council and General Membership minutes on the website. These minutes always have committee meeting reports.

We have been working on correcting email issues to ensure that all of our members are receiving information. In the past we did not use our Action Network because people unsubscribed and were not receiving our emails.

However, we are finding that by bcc'ing emails, we also have the issue that people do not receive our emails due to spam blockers. Please continue to share important information that you receive with your colleagues. It is usually through these conversations that we find out someone is not receiving information.

Questions for Makenzi

- Has tuition reimbursement started to be paid?

No. I will send an email when it will start being paid. Same for degree stipend.

President's Report Paul Angelucci

- New Contract Language, as of the signing of the new contract we are now living the new language, tell members the district should put a notice out for compliance with the new language after books are issued. Note the two changes
- Summer employment/Direct Dealing, we have specific language on how members are to be paid for summer work. Negotiated with the union or per diem rate.
- New Contract Books, we are in talks with the printer now and will let you know when the new copies will be distributed as soon as a proof is reviewed by Central Office and the union. The payouts for the step, the 2.5% GWI and degree stipend should be in the month of June.
- Superintendent Weekly, MOU on emergency closing language should stop the insane conversations we've been having on this for years, plus their idea of wellness Wednesdays which we've been asking for all year, thanks Kenz.

- Dental for children, right now is open enrollment to get your kids back on dental if they aged out at 18. Good news they will be covered until the age of 26, bad news there is there is no work around on the sign-up, birth certificates have to be uploaded it's a labor-intensive process.
- Tuition Reimbursement, there was over 440K in receipts as of Feb. 14th, there will be 550K added in June and then 600K added July 1st for the coming fiscal year. It will be reimbursed from the oldest semester first.
- Library Media Specialist, Dr. Darcy stated at a meeting of LMS since you got a stipend you won't be getting your per diem days for the summer. I called Dr. Niki who agreed with her and then the Super who agreed with me that it amounts to bargaining in bad faith, they will be getting their summer days.

Questions for Paul

- If someone else does the chromebook work, will they get the stipend?
No. It is not listed as a "chromebook" stipend. It is listed as a stipend for LMSs only.
- When will the contract language begin to be followed?
Now. Technically our contract language started as soon as it passed in the Senate. We know there will be hiccups because there is new language that HR needs to learn.
- What will happen if the retro money is not correct? How do we know? Can they make it clear what the retro is for?
We can ask for that. People are going to have to pay close attention to their paychecks.
- When were they going to tell us that our medical was going to go up?
We believed that this was sent through an email from HR.
- A member shared frustration with how Paul shared information about the officer election through his personal cell phone.
Paul acknowledged their frustration and explained that he had shared his personal opinion.
- A building rep shared that it is important to read your paycheck stubs. Sometimes money is taken out if you are not HEP compliant.
- Can you clarify the AFT pandemic credit?
There was a bill introduced right at the end of the spring session. It was bounced back to the study phase because it is so new. We do not know when it is going to come back up again. When it was originally introduced it was introduced as a TRB bill, but we immediately got in touch with Jan to see if there was a way to include our SERS teachers as well.
It will be a while before we hear anything about it moving forward, but we will keep people updated.

New Business

- Andy Taddei, Nominations and Elections Chair, announced the SVFT Officer Election Results.
Vice President: Makenzi Hurtado
Secretary: Jamie Lamitie
- Emily DelPiano, Treasurer, shared the 2022-2023 Budget.
 - Emily explained Budget Assumptions
We budgeted low because we do not know how many retirements we will have and how long they will take to fill the positions.
 - Emily explained that dues will look like a bigger jump because between this year and next year, everyone is jumping two steps and GWI for both. We did not charge retro dues for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Emily explained the biggest changes to our budget from 21-22 to 22-23.
 - Increased tenants' rent.
 - Decreased property tax
 - Office Manager costs are all split in half (she works for us and our attorney)

- Printing down to \$6000 – not printing newsletters, but we do have to print the contracts this year.
 - Conventions lowed by \$3000
 - New building repairs went up to \$6000
 - **New Budget M/S/V**
 - Thank you to all of our building representatives who are retiring!
 - This year, because we have paid for EZvote for the year, the SVFT officers will run elections for building reps' special elections. Anyone who would like to run should contact Paul. Paul will send an email to each school that will have an opening.
- Reminder: We have one trade and one academic representative.

Good and Welfare:

- Rebecca Reyer was named District Teacher of the Year
- Congratulations to all the new babies born.