

# WREA House of Delegates Minutes: February 3, 2020

Call to Order

Roll call

Approve the agenda [Attendance Document](#)

## HOD News

- PD Committee update
  - Kara B. said Bob Berlo was sending out a newsletter. Kara has had input on a survey that was to go out with the January newsletter, that has not yet gone out through the central office. On the survey there will be 3 choices relative to the scheduling of full day PD: (1) Stay the same: May (menu day) Nov (district), (2) Flip flop the purpose of Nov and May days, (3) No May date and prior to the school year starting, Mon prior to kids coming (Full day PD), Tues., Teacher day at buildings before kids come, (may help address concerns for reviewing iep's, prior to student arrival), and Wed would be kids arriving. Kara asked HOD to get feedback from buildings on how they like the newsletter. Next meeting is Feb 24. Also discussion about setting up a resource for teachers to share ideas for outside pd. Bob B. did not want this to happen because he feels he would want to vet all suggestions.
  - Heidi mentioned that members should include feedback on post pd surveys to reflect any experiences where non-adult furniture was used. Member says those surveys have been going to the outside presenter and not the district.

## All-Member News

- Lack of administrative follow through after Labor/Management (WREA/WRSD) meetings
  - Often canceled (by district), members often absent, no follow-through on some issues, issues drag on and on (4 years to resolve some issues)
  - Should we start filing grievances so we have a written record of concerns, progress, resolutions and remedies, etc?
    - Rep mentioned concerns for whether or not these items would be grievable and also concern for potential grievance volume and related workload.
  - Start disseminating WREA/WRSD meeting minutes to members?
    - Attendees were receptive to the idea of disseminating this information. Perhaps these items could be newsletter items.
- Election of officers: Election Committee required for Spring 2020. Any WREA member can be on the Election Committee, excluding candidates and officers.
  - Ryan Zagami also volunteered for the committee.
  - Aileen Thurber / Carolyn Beaumier will co-chair
  - They are responsible for getting nominees onto a ballot. This does not go through the Eboard. May tell members if we need additional nominees for open seats.

## Old Business:

1. Update on addition of COTA, PTA, SLPA to WREA bargaining unit
  - a. Met recently and had the impression that these positions would be allowed under our contract as a Unit B. As of today Heidi was told that the legal affairs has recommended that these positions wait to be incorporated into the next negotiations cycle, a contract which would begin July 2021. We are requesting to begin negotiations by March 3/15/20.
2. Update on best practices for preparing for students on plans (Breen)
  - a. Darryll made a verbal commitment to Suzanne B. that this concern "will be"

accommodated by adding an additional day prior to the start of the school year. We have also heard that that day would be at the complete discretion of school administrators.

3. Child seat concerns at ECC and other buildings-- update (as of WREA/WRSD meeting 1/16/20)
  - a. Supt agrees there should be training
  - b. Heidi will also send an email tickler to central office for an update
  - c. The Eboard will try to be more specific with asking when we can expect movement on action items brought up at the meeting.

### **New Business:**

1. What are other elementary teachers doing regarding use of Fountas and Pinnell Phonics and Word study? ...using it, supplementing, continuing to use Wilson Foundations Phonics program, etc... (Naiman)
  - a. Mayo (grade 1) - supposed to be all in with F&P but admin has said that as good teachers, you teach what the kids need (i.e. supplementing with Wilson).
  - b. Mayo (grade 2) - dabbling now with F&P but feel like they will need to supplement with Wilson. Creating written responses to supplement instruction because F&P does not address the strategies we used to teach, that are reflected on the current report card.
  - c. Naquag - must use F&P exclusively and may not supplement. Told by cherie and Bob at recent F&P training, that teachers must be following F&P with fidelity.
  - d. Thomas Prince - GR 1-2 teachers are having to address the lack of phonics with F&P with supplemental support during RTI.
  - e. Davis Hill (grade 3) - first grade teacher said that F&P doesn't include enough
  - f. Paxton is supplementing
  - g. Dawson was initially told to follow it with fidelity but were recently told they could supplement. (Suggests this is similar to what we have experienced with Eureka.)
  - h. Members at last week's training asked if they could supplement and they were told to follow F&P with fidelity
  - i. Members are already hearing that more parents are requesting student testing because they are concerned that students do not have phonics skills.
  - j. Heidi: Let's survey who's been supplementing with Foundations and who is not.
  - k. Ask these questions:
    - i. Is there enough concern across the district about this?
    - ii. Have members brought these concerns to the building principal?
    - iii. Can building reps identify someone from each grade level as a point person to gather info about F&P? This can also be the rep but does not have to be.
2. Ryan Z.: 6th grade teachers planning for culminating midterm and central office informed them through email 2 weeks before that they wouldn't be giving the midterm they would be giving a smaller common assessment and then 6th grade teachers were told to fill the extra time while rest of school (7 and 8) were doing a 2 hour midterm
  - a. Big Ideas contract is coming up end of this school year. Betsy and Paula CTMS brought this up last year (2018-2019) to start exploring new curriculum but got no

feedback from Beth or anyone at Central. It was brought up to Beth again and there has been no clear process how this new curriculum selection will happen and Big Ideas isn't even on the approved list according to "edreports.org". Math teachers want a direction to make sure they get a program they don't have to supplement to meet common core because right now they are supplementing

**Reports:** President: Heidi Lahey  
VP Negotiations & Sick Bank: Jen Lee  
VP Contract Maintenance: Megan Keller  
VP Membership: Mary Shepherd  
VP Treasurer: Kim McCormack  
Secretary: Stacey Duffy  
Chairperson: Tracy Kasparian

## **Adjournment**

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

HOD meeting dates: Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1

Eboard meeting dates: Feb 24, Mar 30, Apr 27, May 18 (held at Davis Hill)

MTA Annual Meeting May 1 & 2 in Springfield

WREA Annual Meeting: June 1 (MTV)