

BEA 4-3-25

President's Update:

Gail reviewed the open positions in the district. She reviewed the Bits/Briefs slides. Gail noted pages that highlight CEA and NEA articles. All the executive board members were reelected for a new term. The Hartford County Council will take place this Saturday. Only 15 people signed up for this event. There is a mass mobilization happening this weekend. Lobby Day is coming up on April 29th. A Special Education and Challenging Behavior Law workshop will take place on May 20th. Gail showed slides from her visit to a CEA Diversity Summit featuring Dr. Cardona.

A discussion took place about the superintendent's email that was sent today in regards to attendance. CEA site visits went well last week. Maggie is working on another round of site visits. Members have not been able to meet with Melissa Sutton. Gail is fielding a lot of special education questions. Gail feels that we owe our members to elect a contact person to meet with Melissa on a regular basis. She would like to have a special education teacher, speech pathologist, and social worker/psychologist to represent our support staff. We will need to nominate people in April. Stipends could be \$50.00 a month for the rest of the school year. A vote was taken and this motion passed.

Superintendent's Update:

The Executive Board went to a meeting with Dr. Youngberg about the changes she will be making for the next school year. The superintendent is planning to roll out her new plans on April 11th.

Political Action:

Lou Rosado presented a letter writing campaign. He would like CEA to do more letter writing campaigns. Lou feels that letter writing makes a bigger impact on lawmakers. You can write about the following: a need for more special education funding or other issues that affect the education field. Lou will be more than happy to set up meetings with members and their legislators. Gail would like more CEA postcards to be placed in school mailboxes for members to send to the law makers.

Just Cause Training:

The Just Cause Bill is waiting for a vote from the Senate. Presently, a board of education can fire you. If charges are brought against you, a teacher can get an arbitrator and a CEA lawyer to represent them. The BOE will present evidence of why you should be fired. The arbitrator will present their evidence. The neutral arbitrator makes a recommendation to the BOE. The BOE doesn't have to follow the arbitrator's recommendations. Based on BOE findings the person can still be fired. The protections of tenure will not help you. There is no real standard for Just Cause cases in regards to teachers. All other employees in the town can have an arbitrator and their decisions are binding. Joe Z presented the list of Seven Tests of Just Cause. The new law would follow the Seven Tests of Just Cause before termination.

Voting:

A vote was taken to reelect the Executive Board. The motion was passed.

Bylaws:

The committee will have something ready to vote on in May. Gail stated they made some positive changes.

REDAC:

Elka reported the survey results stated people wanted to network with other locals. She stated we could collaborate with Windsor and South Windsor.

Vice President:

Marissa stated that we are going to give Amazon gift cards for Teacher Appreciation Week. She is going to order the cards. Spring Social results were discussed. Most people voted for the Saturday May 31st Paint/Sip event. Gail knows a person that can do the instruction. A discussion took place about a venue to have this event. Marissa is trying to get in touch with people at Rooster and Co. for the End of the Year dinner. Gail talked to someone in Wintonbury Bloomfield Lounge. We are looking at June 3rd for our End of Year Dinner. Marissa is going to talk to Rooster and Co again.

Secretary's Report:

March Minutes were approved.

Membership Report:

We have two new members.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking 55,763.82

BOA Savings 48,888.52

Dues Payment 15,138.84

Lynn will look into get an addition CD