

**To: Executive Board**

**From: W.E.A. Secretary**

**Re: Board Meeting/May 4, 2020**

The **video meeting** was called to order at 3:46 by President Lori Lyncosky. The following members were present: (see attached).

## **REPORTS**

### **MTA**

Paul Ryan updated the board on the state budget due to Covid-19. Most recent information is that the state budget is off by \$6-8 billion. There will be no additional \$ under Fund our Future this year. School districts will be receiving the same amount of Chapter 70 funds (which can only be used to fund education) as they received last year, which is considered a deficit. Overall, currently 50% less funds will be going to cities and towns from the state this year. This could mean serious cuts happen before the end of the school year, with hopes of receiving federal funds over the summer that would allow for reinstatement. MTA will let us know when the time is right to reach out to elected officials.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Pam inquired about new member forms as she needs to report them to MTA.

## **SECRETARY**

A motion to accept the April 2020 minutes was made by Joe Mullett and seconded by Pam Tesko. A vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

## **TREASURER**

The budget for April 2020 was presented and Pam Tesko moved to receive the report. Kelly Paradis seconded. A vote was taken and the report was received.

## **PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Kristen reported that the one potential grievance we had has been resolved by the school closure.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Budget—With the state starting to reopen we're hoping things with the budget will start to look less dire.
2. Nonrenewals-The first round of nonrenewals went out last Thursday. These cuts were cuts made BEFORE the pandemic and were based on class sizes and the flux of students moving into grades. At this point the district can not sustain classes that have 8 students in them. Lori has been addressing the problem of 27-33 students in classes and the superintendent is sympathetic and they're working on a solution. Just a reminder that anyone who receives a nonrenewal is able to apply for another position if something opens up over the summer.
3. Money/Movement/More Cuts-The state will be operating on a 1/12<sup>th</sup> budget this year and is trying to be creative with how the \$ is administered to municipalities. This means we will be given 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the \$ allocated to us, however the amount we will receive continues to be an enigma. The state has cut Title One funding; the offset for that is in the Cares Act \$ and no one knows when that \$ will be delivered. Fund Our Future and Student Opportunity Act \$ seems to have disappeared. If the state doesn't come up with \$ and the City can't figure out another way to close the budget gap, another round of cuts is expected by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. The concessions that we made hopefully will keep more cuts at bay, but the City has a \$4 MILLION gap right now.
4. **Information regarding Remote Learning:**
  - A. Professional Responsibilities (Units A & D)
    - \* All Unit D members:
      - were sent an email outlining online professional development items that the district expects will be completed. If there is someone who is struggling with the work, please contact Paula Ceglowski. If anyone needs a Chromebook in order to complete the trainings, they should contact Susan Dargie.

\* Unit A members who received nonrenewal notices

Are expected to continue to perform their professional obligations up to and including June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- This includes, but is not limited to – lesson planning, attending virtual administrative meetings, attending virtual 504 and IEP meetings, scheduling virtual meetings with students, grading submitted work, entering grades.

- Should a member make the ultimate decision that they are not going to uphold their professional obligations the nonrenewal will be rescinded, a termination for failure to comply/insubordination will be issued, all benefits will stop and unemployment will be contested.

- Per a conversation with Lynn Hills from Benefits...any affected teacher will receive all payments due them in the last paycheck in June. Health and Dental Insurance will be prepaid and will be carried up to August 31st. At that point if the employee chooses to COBRA the plan they may.

- The affected employee may apply for Unemployment Insurance starting June 24th.

#### B. Evaluations and MCAS

- MCAS has been cancelled this year.

- Evaluations – The School Committee makes the ultimate decision regarding evaluations. We are waiting for the School Committee to sign off on an MOA which puts evaluations in abeyance for this year. The status members were in before we went out on the school closure is the status they will begin the year in next year. If they were proficient on March 13th, they will be proficient to start next year. If a member was on an improvement or growth plan, that is where they will start next year.

\*\*This year counts as a whole year toward PTS.

C. Special Education Annual Meetings - will be taking place remotely. A general education teacher must be in attendance. Since there is a time element that needs to be fulfilled meetings will not be rescheduled. If you are the general education teacher invited and you can't make it please let the ETL know immediately so another teacher can be invited.

5. Unit D negotiations will move forward at the beginning of next year. A survey will be sent out prior to negotiations beginning.

6. General Membership Meeting and Vote – per building consensus vote, both will take place in September.

#### **OPEN FLOOR:**

- Seniority lists on the website are out dated...Pam will send updated lists to Tom and he will update the website ASAP.

A motion to adjourn was made by Leslie Clark and seconded by Kate Wailgum.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Blair--WEA Secretary