

CSEA SEIU Local 2001

Paraprofessional Council Meeting

Danbury High School, Danbury, CT.

November 21, 2010

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by President, Bill Walkauskas

Members In Attendance: Joseph I. Adams, Corinne Bergeron, Sue Boughton, Ann Bumstead, Fay Clark, Missy Cole, Donna Coyle, Joann J. Cruzza, Yvonne Czado, Anne Feeney, Carol Gardella, Victoria Gordon, Bobbie Granskye Malere, HoYen Jean Hyer, Joanne Kaltenstein, Kathy Kirby, Maureen Kristopik, Marlene Van Lenter, Mary Marlston, Olga Ortiz, Marilyn Radder, Tim Riddle, Valerie Rogers, Janette Smith, Debbie Urban, Bill Walkauskas, Meridane White, JoAnne Zilliox

Union Staff: Susan Nelson, Steve Ferrucci

**Secretary's Report-** presented by vice- president, Janette Smith(Secretary Anne Feeney late)

- Presented minutes of September 11, 2010 meeting.
- Minutes accepted.

**Treasurers Report** – Maureen Kristopik

- \$20,662.74 current balance
- Money for Para Council operations comes from dues.
- Council paid for 10 paras to attend the SERC Paraprofessional Conference on October 26, 2010.
- Treasures Report accepted.

**Vice President's Report:** Janette Smith

- Introduced topics for the meeting: handling grievances and how to be a better union.

**President's Report:** Bill Walkauskas

- CSEA, SEIU Local 2001 Bi-Annual Convention, September 24, 2010, Cromwell, CT
  - Focused on electing new Governor and Senator for the State.
  - Visit by SEIU national president, Mary Kay Henry.
  - Patrice Peterson elected SEIU Local 2001 President
  - Paige Fartham elected secretary/ treasurer
  - Trying to move the convention to a Saturday in 2012 so more school members can attend.
- There will be a serious budget crisis in the state during the next two years. This will effect paraprofessionals. We need to learn how to use the union to help use get through.
- Dan Mallory, our new governor is in support for FMLA for paraprofessionals. Hopefully with this support FLMA for paraprofessionals will pass in the next session.
- SERC is trying to move next years Para Conference to Saturday to make it easier for paraprofessionals to attend.
- We would like to set up a private website so chapters can access other chapters' contracts and other information of interest. If anyone would like to help set this up, Please contact Bill.

**Staff Reps report:** Susan Nelson and Steve Ferrucci

- Discussed our new Governor, Dan Malloy and how the union hopes to work with him.

- Discussed Union Leave:
  - State Employees have paid released time to attend Council meetings and other SEIU 2001 meetings including, SEIU 2001 executive council meetings.
  - Most school and municipal workers do not have this paid release time. Can be negotiated into contracts.

### **Chapter Reports**

- Members introduced themselves and discussed their chapters.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Union Turkey Fund**

- Each year the union has a fund to buy turkeys for union members facing economic difficulties at Thanksgiving. Donations from various union councils and chapters buy the turkeys.
- Susan Boughton made a motion to make a \$200 donation to the Union Turkey Fund with the stipulation that our donation be used to buy turkeys for laid off paraprofessional members. Joseph Adams seconded. Motioned carried.

#### **McCusker Scholarship Fund**

- The McCusker Scholarship fund provides college scholarships to SEIU 2001 Members, their children, and grandchildren. Numerous children of Para members have received scholarships. The scholarships are funded by donations by SEIU 2001 councils, chapters, and members and McCusker fundraisers.
- A motion was made by Marilyn Radder to donate \$2000 to the McCusker Scholarship Fund. Janette Smith seconded.
- Following discussion the motioned was amended by Missy Cole to increase the donation to the McCusker scholarship fund to \$5000. Seconded by Joann J. Cruzza. The motion passed in a headcount vote: 14 ayes, 8 naya, and 4 abstained.

### **OLD NEWS**

#### **Executive Council Delegates**

- A vote was held that filled 2 of the 3 open positions for the SEIU 2001 Executive Council.
- Yvonne Czado and Tim Riddle self-nominated for the positions.
- Voted in by acclamation.

#### **By-law Revision Committee**

- The issue of forming a bylaw committee to make sure all chapters have bylaws and to revise the paraprofessional councils by laws was tabled until the January meeting.

#### **Paraprofessional Council Newsletter-**

- A committee was formed to create the paraprofessional council newsletter.
- Committee members are Fay Clark, Kathy Kirby, and Tim Riddle.

### **TRAINING**

- After the meeting business was concluded staff rep. Susan Nelson provided training on handling grievances. A pizza lunch was served.

- At 1:30pm Jean Hyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. JoAnne Zilliox seconded. Meeting was adjourned.