

2021.03.16 NYSUT RC12 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD ON ZOOM

I. President's Report

A. NYSUT Code of Conduct read.

B. RC12 Elections will be held at the May 12 meeting. Anyone who is interested in being elected to a Director position is asked to contact Kathlene Lyman at namyl4@aol.com for an application.

C. Budget - Walsh and Tedesco report that funding is looking good due to Federal Relief bills. However, the following year, the state revenue may fall short. Grants for aides and PreK were lumped together. Four members of RC12 attended for Committee of 100.

D. School board budget votes will be held on April 1. The State budget is needed for districts to make plans. Peter Kim and Joe Morabie are available if anyone one knows anyone interested in running for their school board.

NYSUT heard there that money is being made available to help people run for positions who are not pro education.

E. NYS Education is asking for a waiver from testing requirement for 2021. Chancellor Rosa is on board to get the waiver. However, at this late date, there has not been a response from the government. NYSUT will be supplying information so parents can opt their children out from the testing for grades 3-8. At this point only four regents exams will be conducted: ELA, Living Environment, Algebra, and Earth Science exams

Advocates are bringing issues forward revealing the reality of what students are dealing with regarding the virus such as experiencing deaths, continually testing positive, mandatory quarantines, and changing that happens from day to day are discussed. However, there continues to be advocates of accountability.

F. Safety and opening all schools. There is a transition regarding social distancing from six to three feet. Teachers are getting vaccines. Some districts asking for more social workers. Many kids not logging on and plans have been put into place to check into reaching out to those students. Time to receive the Covid vaccine is being provided and there has been a two year extension for the Covid death benefits.

G. Retirement Advisory Committee (RAC) Communications Committee will be meeting on Thursday. An AFT Action Training was held in the fall to help get data bases set up.

H. NYSUT Assembly will be held online again this year. The Retiree Councils are requesting more involvement.

I. Retirement workshops are being held March 25 and May 6.

J. Vaccine information can be found on the RC12 website. Some retirees are receiving calls and emails from their counties and insurances companies. When a vaccination date is set, individuals may want to call places where they requested to be placed on waiting lists.

K. Nursing Home Reform has been passed by legislators regarding safe staffing ratios. However, the governor has not signed the bill. Website links may be placed on RC12 website for more information.

L. Covid Relief Bill entails many areas for benefit: child tax credits, lower health insurance premiums, reopening classrooms, benefits for unemployment. AFT is looking more into the bill to provide information. Legislators are available to speak more on the details.

M. Looking at a possible tax increase with the wealthier top two percent of NYS.

N. Last, but not least, NYS has a possibility of acquiring its first female governor.

II. Vice President - Kathlene Lyman

Due to NYSUT security actions obtaining lists of retiring names and addresses continues to be a challenge. The most current list provide was difficult to follow.

III. Second Vice President - Bev Alves

Bev is involved with NYSARA Medicare Palliative Care Resolution to improve palliative care services. For more information contact Bev at blimarivka@outlook.com

IV. Treasurer - Dolores Talmadge

A. February 9, 2021 - March 15, 2021: Savings \$131.69, Social Money Market \$19,339.27, Business Money Market \$38,236.10, Business Checking \$3.00, Social Checking \$326.67 Total \$58,036.73

B. October Audit needs to be filed.

IV. Secretary - Cathy Picciocca

Minutes from the October 6, 2020 meeting were emailed to attendees. Dolores made a motion to accept the minutes as sent. Carolyn second the motion. Motion passed.

V. Director reports - no reports

VI. NYSUT Retiree Services Consultant - Jen Shaad-Derby

A. Jen, Jeanne, and Stacey are conducting Preretirement Workshops.

B. NYSUT has shut down for hosting spring and fall conferences. Consultants met however, no one seems comfortable scheduling a Fall Conference due to so much unknown regarding COVID and social distancing. At the May meeting a survey may be conducted to see how members feel about attending a meeting in the fall. At this point venues have rolled over deposits to the following year.

C. Jen reminded all to continue to social distance although vaccinated.

VII. Social Committee -

A. A decision regarding the Mackinac Trip (June 13 - 19) will be made soon. Contact Dolores with any questions.

B. Mt. Rushmore/Badlands Trip is scheduled for September 24 - October 4, 2021

C. New York City Music Man trip is scheduled for April 6, 2022

VIII. Outlook/Website - Carolyn Darkangelo

A. The next Outlook cut off for information is the first week of April. Information is requested for any vaccinations updates or side effects. Continue to send positive information, links, and pictures to Carolyn.

B. Check out the website <http://rc12.ny.aft.org/>

IX. StateWide - Kathlene Lyman

A raffle will be held for the 50th anniversary of StateWide. Tickets are on sale for \$1 or \$5 for seven tickets. Meetings are being held regarding the State Budget and meeting with Legislators .

X. Other

A. NYSUT held a workshop to recruitment diverse teachers on ZOOM. Teachers from all over New York State shared their stories.

B. Remember to sign up for NYSSARA Monday Alert

XI. Guest Speaker - Derek Clement

A. Derek provided a Quick Guide to review programs available.

B. Met Life will be changing to Farmers. However, Met Life will continue to help for five to ten years during the transition.

C. Anyone with Term Life get free legal plans...Free wills, power of attorney, health care proxy.

D. There has been a vision care rate decrease.

E. Legal services have family plans and rider services that include Financial Plans, Credit Counseling, Identity theft. The Kiplinger financial website is extremely helpful.

XII. The meeting ended around noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Picciocca

Secretary RC12