



General Meeting

Hackney branch of the NEU



Scrap the SATs now

Primary school teacher and Inner London Executive member **Jess Edwards** will address the meeting on our coming ballot to boycott high stakes tests in primary schools. We will also discuss other issues such as cuts in funding and pay.



Monday 20th May @ 5pm

Yum Yum Restaurant

187 Stoke Newington High St N16 0LR



Crèche available/ childcare expenses paid
Cab fares will be paid

AGM Agenda 5.00pm

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of the results of the election of Officers and Committee
3. President's Address
4. Motions-Adoption of the new rules.

Branch meeting
Nominations for officers of the Branch

HNEU 2nd floor, 6-15 Florfield Rd, Reading Lane, E8 1DT Phone 0208 985 2056
www.neuhackney

General meeting Agenda

1. Request for Suspensions
2. Minutes from previous General Meeting
3. Matters arising (10 minutes)
4. Fixed business (see above)
5. Information from committee meetings (see minutes)
6. Secretary's and Officers report
7. Motions
8. Correspondence
9. AOB

Motion for May General Meeting

Delegation for Equalities Conferences

NEU Hackney reaffirms its commitment to fighting all forms of discrimination.

NEU Hackney agrees to publicise all equalities conferences and through various forms of communication to encourage all members to attend.

NEU Hackney agrees to pay the cost (attendance and travel expenses) of up to 10 delegates per conference.

Proposed: Sandra Hall Seconded: Carole Buxton

Minutes of Hackney Teachers' Association Annual General Meeting

Monday 10th July 2018

1. Minutes of previous AGM 2017 - Agreed.
2. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts tabled.
3. Installation of the new president Des Barrow was installed as the new president for 2017/18. Des gave a brief address to the meeting.
4. Election results for officers and committee were declared as printed in the Annual Report.
5. Vote of thanks to retiring committee members.
6. Vote of thanks to the past President.

Minutes of GM Monday 4th March 2019

Agenda

At the start of the meeting the President reported the sad and sudden death of our colleague Claire Gray. Members were invited to speak

1. Request for Suspensions- none received.
2. Minutes from previous General Meeting - agreed.
3. Matters arising
4. Fixed business—Kiri Tunks spoke about Sexism in our schools, sharing some shocking statistics and stories from schools around the country. She talked about the campaigns and advice the union has been involved in in combating sexism. There was a lively discussion and Kiri responded to questions from the floor.
5. Information from committee meetings
6. Secretary's and Officers' report.
7. Amendments to Conference motions
8. Motions

Support for strike against forced academisation at The John Roan School

This NEU association/ district notes and admires the determination of members of the NEU and other unions at The John Roan School in Greenwich who are campaigning to defeat forced academisation. NEU members took six days of strike action in June and a further two days in October & November.

We believe that John Roan Resists, a group of parents, carers and the public, is running a fantastic campaign building practical solidarity in the community and challenging the decision to turn the school over to the University Schools Trust (UST, currently formed of St Paul's Way Foundation School, St Paul's Way Trust School and The Royal Greenwich Trust School, CEO Grahame Price), resulting in the local authority postponing the decision to start conversion until Feb/March 2019 earliest.

We note that the NEU ballot has now expired and members must be re-balloted to continue taking official strike action, sustained by the NEU. On Thursday 29th November when members of the GMB at The John Roan took official strike action, NEU members refused to cross their picket lines, resulting in school closure. NEU members who refused to cross the picket line will not receive pay or strike pay. The GMB has announced further strike days on 11th, 12th and 13th December.

We resolve to:

1. Publicly express our solidarity and support for this strike and build awareness of it through our emails to members and social media channels.
2. Encourage members to write before 11th December to Danny.thorpe@royalgreenwich.gov.uk and David.Gardner@royalgreenwich.gov.uk to ask them not to proceed with conversion to academy.
3. Donate £100 to the John Roan Strike fund and encourage our members to donate to the Go Fund Me page: <https://www.gofundme.com/support-john-roan-strike-against-academisation>

Carried

No More Exclusions

Hackney Division notes:

1. The growing increase in the numbers of students being excluded or off-rolled from schools, and notes that students with SEN, those on Free School Meals and African-Caribbean students are disproportionately affected.
2. That the increase in zero tolerance behaviour strategies and policies have been increasing this problem further, with students being internally as well as externally excluded.
3. The continuing failure of government to properly fund schools, with the result that students in need support are being neglected and the pressures on school staff are mounting.
4. That there is increasing evidence that students are off-rolled in order to improve some schools' standings in league tables
5. That these problems are now a toxic mix with the potential to undermine social cohesion and lead to a divided society.

This association:

1. Welcomes the creation of the organising and campaign group NO MORE EXCLUSIONS as a grass roots coalition to tackle the issue of exclusions.
2. Commends the work done by a Waltham forest NEU exec member to have brought together a wide range of activists including NEU members, parent groups and others involved in young people and children's services from across the country with a particular but not exclusive concern for the experiences of African-Caribbean children.
3. Recognises that the creation of NO MORE EXCLUSIONS is important for NEU members, as it affects our everyday working lives, and will support the building of our Association.
4. Agrees to make a donation of £50 to support the work of No More Exclusions.

Hackney District NEU also notes :

The Children's Commissioner Report 'Skipping School : Invisible Children' (4th Feb 2019) showed that while many parents who make a philosophical decision to home educate put a substantial amount of thought and dedication into providing their children with a high quality education; there are many other families who have ended up home educating for other reasons, and are struggling to cope. There needs to be a cultural shift away from pressurised, hot-housing schools, to help stem the tide of children entering home education when it is not in the family's true interests or wishes. There is also a pressing need for more immediate measures to improve the experiences, safety and wellbeing of children who do end up being home educated and to reduce school pressures on families to withdraw their children from school.

We further note the Report showed Hackney academies saw an increase in children moving into home education of 238% between 2016-17 and 2017-18, compared to an increase of 21% in local authority-run schools over the same period and that numbers for primary schools are fast increasing.

Hackney District NEU support the Children's Commissioner's call for:-

- i. A home education register including the child's name, date of birth and the address at which they are being educated. Parents should also be asked why they are home educating their child and whether they intend for the child to re-enter mainstream education at some point.

- ii. Strengthening measures to decrease off-rolling, including ensuring school behaviour policies acknowledging that poor behaviour may be linked to additional needs, such as SEND, and ensuring that children with additional needs receive appropriate support.
- iii. Advice and support for children and families. This to include within three days of a decision being taken for a child to be withdrawn from school to be home educated, the local authority should visit the child and family to provide advice and support on alternative options, including other schools the child could attend.
- iv. Greater oversight of children being home educated with a LA visit at least once per term.
- v. Decisive action against unregistered schools.
- vi. Earmarked increase funding to Local Authorities to cover the above.

Carried

Venezuela

Economic challenges due to the drop in oil prices have been worsened by the sanctions imposed on Venezuela by US President Donald Trump. These include the freezing of \$7 billion of Venezuela's assets held abroad.

Venezuela sends around 41% of its oil to the USA and the sanctions have banned US companies doing business with Venezuela.

UN Independent Expert Alfred de Zayas, in a report to the September 2018 meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission, has said the sanctions are illegal and are crimes against humanity. He said that these sanctions hit the poorest and will cause death through food and medicine shortages. De Zayas has previously commented that the 'economic warfare' practised by the US, EU and Canada are significant factors in the economic crisis within the country.

The British Government has become complicit in Trump's attack and the Bank of England has refused to release around \$550 million of Venezuela's gold deposits.

This constitutes an unjustifiable interference in Venezuela's internal affairs and will not help resolve internal problems. Venezuela Solidarity Campaign is calling for the support of trades unionists and others to stop British and US interference in Venezuela.

NEU Hackney agrees to circulate a petition and join the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign.

Carried

Havana Tornado Appeal

A rare tornado in nearly 80 years has devastated the Cuban capital, Havana, on Sunday night 27th January 2019. The tornado and pounding rain caused damage to homes and infrastructure with wide spread flooding, wind tearing up and overturning trees, vehicles and electrical cables. Also total and partial collapse of buildings.

Work is already underway to repair property including damaged schools, hospitals, utilities and public buildings and re-establish services.

NEU Hackney reiterates its solidarity with the Cuban people in the task they have ahead to rebuild their communities.

NEU Hackney calls on the US Government to end its inhumane blockade of the country so that the Cuban people can access the building materials and equipment they will need to reconstruct their capital following this tragedy.

NEU Hackney agrees to make a donation of £100 to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign Havana Tornado Relief.

Carried

9. Correspondence

10. AOB