



District Meeting

Hackney District NEU



LGBT+ History Month 2021

Fighting for inclusive education in our schools



Denise Henry, Lambeth primary teacher, union activist, representative of the London LGBT+ Organising Forum

Kacey de Groot, Coventry drama teacher, LGBT+ National Executive Seat holder.

At the meeting we will also be discussing the latest Covid-19 situation in Hackney

Monday 25th January @5pm

All education workers who are members of the NEU are welcome

Agenda

1. Request for Suspensions to Standing Orders
2. Report back from decisions made at previous meeting
3. Fixed business (see above)
4. Secretary's and Officers' report—notice of Hackney AGM on Monday 29th March and nomination of 3 delegates and observers (including 1 ATL legacy member) for NEU Annual Conference **7th -10th April 2021**. Also nomination for member of the Conference Committee. (1)
5. Prioritisation of 6 motions for NEU Conference 2021 (see enclosed)
6. Motions

ZOOM LINK

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: 25th January 05:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEocu-gpzosHty3zfaEc8yJ3T3Wm1LsAcsw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Record of decisions Hackney District Meeting of NEU 23rd November 2020

We heard from speakers Elane Heffernan who is disabled member executive of our sister union UCU, which represents college and university lecturers and Richard Rieser our Equalities Officer. We also passed motion (copied at end) contributing £100 to Disability History Month. Some key points:

UCU and NEU have campaigned for support for those at risk inc. disabled members, black members

Day of action by UCU and NEU 25th November

Both speakers stressed importance of collectivising action and not reducing support of disabled members to case work

Social not medical model of disability underpins understanding of disability

Schools are required to have an Access plan under the Equalities Act

Alliance for Inclusive Education did a study to show schools failing in this

Enable the voice of disabled students

School curriculum in this, as in so many areas not adequate

Exams this year: many students stressed and concerned and situation particularly affecting disabled students who will have missed time because of risk

Richard has developed resources including powerpoint we will send round

NB especially, Jonathan Bryan (at 12 years old) wrote wonderful book after leaving special school and his mother taught him to read and write.

NEU Conference

Jane explained how conference will work this year, given the circumstances, and urged reps to put themselves forward as delegates: we want to be represented by classroom teachers and reps. Details have been posted to schools and put on what's app

We agreed six motions to go to conference on: Disability; Pay Freeze; School Funding; Child Poverty; Covid and workload, BLM and anti-racism

Secretary's report: Covid and other issues

Ballot of staff at Leaways School had 100% turnout, 80% Yes vote for action. Can take strike action next week. Please send messages of support to them via Dave Davies

Funding and cuts are starting to become issues. Colvestone and Thomas Fairchild schools in Soaring Skies Federation are threatened with the loss of 18 support staff jobs. Working with other unions for action. There will be a demonstration there this Friday.

Covid

Observations and workload still an issue in some schools; others (SNS, Clapton, City, WP and ?) not doing. In other cases still going on: you can use and adapt the escalation letter we have written about this. We urge groups concerned about workload of this kind to use it!

Use the workload reduction kit Dave sent round

Clapton have done a survey of members: Sorcha can circulate to anyone who wants it

Concern over SATs and students and Y6 teachers stressed as they are catching up/supporting but results will be meaningless. Similar concerns GCSE/A levels.

It is evident there is huge amounts of stress and this is increasing in run up to Christmas as staff are ill

Funding for cover running out: extra covid costs eg £42,000 in one school quoted for cleaning

Christmas

B6: students on study leave for last few days of term

Other schools: lot of support for different ways of allowing schools to teach, keep public health and safety in mind and reduce infection in run up to Christmas.

High staff absence raises H and S concerns as well as those over wellbeing and likely to lead to more absence if measures not taken

Examples include: move to rotas and/or blended learning – staff in school, students at home; add week to holidays and take off later in the year – when hopefully vaccines will be being administered

Anecdotally many Heads in favour of this; also they have duty of care

Hackney Education to be pressured so they write a letter to Heads – but government announcements make this unlikely

Dave to circulate poll used at Clapton to all reps to use

Disability History Month

"Hackney District NEU agrees to support UKDHM 2020 on Access and donate £100. We agree to try and ensure the theme of disability access is raised in the schools where we work by:

a) Initiating discussions with pupils;

b) developing curriculum work that is relevant:- see ukdhm.org/2020/resources

c) Holding an online meeting with our workplace colleagues that examines the way disabled staff are treated in our workplace./ If possible this should happen on 25th November or soon after;

d) Making sure disabled colleagues get the reasonable adjustments they require during the Covid 19 pandemic and beyond;

e) Examining the School Access Plan and making sure it meets the statutory requirements under Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010."

Carried

Motion for General Meeting 25.1.21

1: The NEU and Covid-19

Hackney NEU notes the catastrophic situation in the NHS as Covid rates reach unprecedented heights and risk our hospitals, including the Homerton, being over-whelmed. We send our solidarity and support to all NHS workers in Hackney and beyond and agree to donate £100 to a thank you hamper, as well as encouraging reps and members to send messages of support.

Hackney NEU congratulates the union, reps and members for the stance we have taken against the murderous actions and incompetence of this government and its desire to continue to keep schools open against all scientific evidence about the spread of the virus.

Hackney NEU congratulates Lambeth NEU for the initiative they have taken in launching Lambeth Learning Packs – an initiative now being taken up by the NEU nationally – and agree to commit £200 to this for children in Hackney (from money saved on national conference) and to fund raise.

We recognise that the first priority now must be to contain and reduce Covid-19 infection rates and that this will require enhanced protection and lockdown measures.

We further recognise that the combination of home, on-line, blended and school learning increases pressure on teachers and support staff and agree to encourage primary and secondary staff, across year groups, subjects and schools to collaborate in developing quality learning resources, whilst preventing an increase in workload.

We agree we need to continue to:

Campaign for continued safety in schools, including nurseries, special schools and any school where numbers of children are too high, or unsafe practices continue

Ensure schools have proper, updated risk assessments in place.

Continue to support members where workload or inappropriate practices are occurring.

Work with the NEU, Hackney Education and Schools for educational practices that are sup-

portive of students and parents, and prioritise wellbeing and mental health as well as creative and active pedagogies.

To work with parents for better provision now and in the future.

Campaign for the laptops promised by the government and for free broadband.

Campaign for proper meals for FSM children.

Proposed Jane Bassett

Seconded Richard Reiser

2: In memory of Sonia Ellington

Sonia Ellington was an amazing primary school teacher for many years. She worked in many schools across Hackney and Haringey.

Sonia contracted Covid whilst on the frontline teaching (Woodberry Down School) and sadly passed away on Christmas Eve. She will be remembered as a strong, happy, hardworking and a very caring woman who had a positive impact on many students and her colleagues.

Hackney NEU agrees to send condolences to the family and to donate £200 towards the fund raising page set up by her daughters, Monique and Alyssea

Proposed: Carly Springer

Seconded: Charlene Morgan