



District Meeting



Hackney District NEU

As schools are set to open on March 8th...

How can we ensure a safe return?

Jess Edwards Lambeth primary teacher, and National Executive member will lead a discussion on we can fight to make our schools and communities safe



At the meeting we will also be discussing the latest Covid-19 situation in Hackney and how we can fight for safer schools.

Monday 1st March @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—Nomination as an Executive member—one member for each of the Independent, Post 16 and Support Staff sections. One member for each of the Black, LGBT+ and Disabled members' section. Four places for the Inner London Executive. (Link to nominee statements)
5. Amendments to NEU Conference 2021 motions (Link to booklet on NEU website)
6. Motions
7. AOB

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Mar 1, 2021 05:00 PM London

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://neu-org-uk.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqfu2gqDIqGNVajTi6DhosXm8Z6Gh-W60c>

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

Motions

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

Hackney NEU notes

In 2019 the mayor of London awarded a PFI contract to build the Silvertown tunnel, despite huge opposition from local residents, environmental groups, CLP's, Labour councils and prominent Labour MP's. The estimated cost of the project has now doubled to £2 billion. The tunnel would worsen air pollution, traffic congestion, carbon emissions and is financially unviable. One impact would be to enable HV's to cross the river into one of London's most polluted areas, passing schools and nurseries where thousands of children play and learn.

Research from the Tyndall Centre shows that London's transport policy is currently incompatible with the rapid decarbonisation required to reach targets aligned with the Paris agreement, and the tunnel would only make matters worse. TfL will be reliant on high traffic revenue from tolling the Blackwall and Silvertown tunnels to repay PFI financing at a time when reducing car usage is crucial.

HNEU believes

If Labour are truly committed to clean air and tackling climate change there is no justification for the tunnel. TfL is financially vulnerable and this project doesn't make economic sense, especially as TfL would be liable for any shortcomings from tolling. To ensure a just transition, revenue should be prioritised for accessible, affordable and reliable public transport.

HNEU resolves to

Call upon the mayor of London to cancel this project and ask Hackney council and Hackney MP's to publicly support this motion.

Proposed Des Barrow

Seconded Carole Buxton

Record of decisions Hackney District Meeting of NEU 25th January 2021

We heard from Denise Henry Lambeth Primary Teacher + London LGBT+ Forum and Kacey De Groot, LGBT+ National Executive holder, and had a good discussion about supporting students, including trans-students and issues over lockdown, as well as discussion on the issue of safe spaces. Thanks to both speakers. A couple of points:

Kacey is always willing to come and discuss issues further

The charity Educate and Celebrate has received additional funding and there are free places for training. Contact enquiries@educateandcelebrate.org or via Carole: carole.buxton@neu.org.uk

Secretary's report 1:

redundancies at Colvestone/Thomas Fairchild. Continuing concerns over intentions to make 17 mainly support staff redundant, with some taking voluntary redundancy but still leaves a huge gap in provision

Unite have intention to strike; we need to see if our members have the confidence to strike
Issues coming up around decline in numbers of students in Inner London: PAN. Likelihood of some schools reducing intake with effect on staffing – some named in press but uncertain
We need to press for space to be used for post-Covid recovery and also for the establishment of SEND units in schools, to support inclusion and also reduce the massive cost of sending students to private SEND provision (eg Leaways makes £50,000 from each child sent there)
It is clear we have to re-launch a funding campaign

Secretary's report 2:

Dispute at Leaways continues. We have recognition but despite talks at ACAS no resolution over 7 days sick leave, despite the money they make out of our students. The dispute continues.

Secretary's report 3:

Covid: very little to report. There has been a lot of discussion among reps about different ways schools are delivering remote learning, but no serious issues. Some questions about laptops – which the government has not delivered on.

Motion on Covid:

Motion passed with amendment as below unanimously. The amendment increased the amount of money to spend on equipment packs for vulnerable children: the validity of this was queried, so we need to check the rules.

Conference delegates elected/confirmed: David Davies, Tyler Butler, Nancy Perrin, Carol Williams, Carly Slingsby, Richard Rieser, Iain Forsyth, Charlene Morgan, Louise Whittle

Observers: Inbar Tamari, Susie Burrows, Sandra Hall, Sandra McLeod

Conference Committee: Jane Bassett

Conference motions prioritised:

3 GCSE and A Levels

9 Pay Freeze

31 Black Lives Matter

38 PSHE, RSE and LGBT+ education

77 Organising in the Workplace

39 Combating Climate Breakdown

We also nominated Lisa Tunnell from North Derbyshire NEU for Conference Committee

Motion and amendments

Motion with amendment passed unanimously.

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.

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.

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:

1. Campaign for continued safety in schools, including nurseries, special schools and any school where numbers of children are too high, or unsafe practices continue
2. Ensure schools have proper, updated risk assessments in place.
3. Continue to support members where workload or inappropriate practices are occurring.
4. Work with the NEU, Hackney Education and Schools for educational practices that are supportive of students and parents, and prioritise wellbeing and mental health as well as creative and active pedagogies.
5. To work with parents for better provision now and in the future.
6. Campaign for the laptops promised by the government and for free broadband.
7. Campaign for proper meals for FSM children.

The amendment was passed 22 to 2:

Replace:

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.

With:

Notes that:

Districts, including Croydon and Lambeth, have committed significant amounts of money (£1500 and £1000 respectively) to launching Learning Packs for vulnerable children in their Districts.

This is an excellent initiative that is to be echoed at national level, and that highlights the failure of government to adequately fund education or to alleviate child poverty, as well as concretely supporting the children we teach and support

Hackney District currently has around £20,000 in the bank, with more expected, and that for two years running (2020 and 2021) we will have spent no money sending delegates to annual conference, and in these extra-ordinary times we should support our community and the national campaign to support the access of all children to education.

We agree to commit £1000 to this project and in addition to fund-raise locally
Carried.