



General Meeting

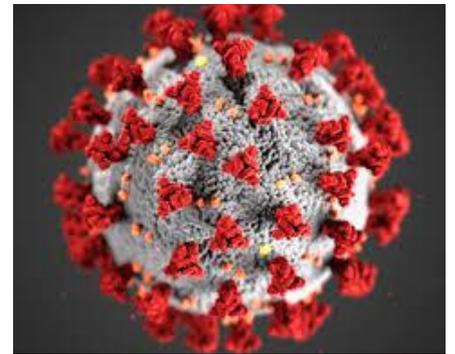
Hackney District NEU



Covid-19 cases are sharply increasing

How can we make our schools safe?

The number of covid-19 cases are rising dramatically throughout the country with epidemiologists at Imperial College now estimating the R rate as 1.7. The NEU has put forward a list of demands to improve the safety of schools and this meeting will discuss this campaign and report back from the first few weeks of term to assess the current safety regimes.



Monday 21st September @5pm

All education workers who are members of the NEU are welcome

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. Including nominations for committee places (4).
8. Motions
9. Amendments to motions for special conference
9. Correspondence
10. AOB

Motion

LGBT+ Inclusive Education

Hackney District notes:

over 115,000 people have signed a parliamentary petition to Government opposing changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in schools, including LGBT+ content;

parents have opposed the inclusion of LGBT+ rights as part of the equality programme “No Outsiders” at Parkfield school in Birmingham;

the Conservative Leader of the House of Commons, Andrea Leadsom, has said that parents should decide when their children are "exposed" to LGBT+ relationships in RSE lessons and that parents should have a veto over what is taught.

Hackney District believes:

all children are entitled to high quality, age-appropriate and rights-based RSE that is inclusive of LGBT+ relationships;

the Union should oppose any attempts to go back to the days of Section 28 that banned councils from “promoting the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”;

it is important for schools to have a clear dialogue with parents about the necessity of inclusive education;

we should reject any attempts to use this issue to increase Islamophobia or to link RSE to de-radicalisation, the prevent programme or British Values;

that reporting of this in the mainstream press has focused on Muslim parents and has been used to increase an atmosphere of Islamophobia.

Hackney District notes NEU Conference instructed the Executive to:

a. call on the Government to:

(i) strengthen the RSE guidance and make teaching about LGBT+ relationships compulsory at all stages of the curriculum;

(ii) provide additionally funded ring-fenced resources to Local Authorities to enable them to develop a common approach and engage with parents and local communities;

b. challenge the misinformation being circulated about the content of RSE;

c. issue advice to schools to empower them to positively teach an inclusive curriculum and develop a whole school approach to embed equality;

d. work with as many partners as possible to support increasing the scope of RSE in schools, share good practice, and support Regions, Districts and Branches to work with Local Authorities and employers to promote inclusive equality education in all schools; and

e. support members in schools where opposition to inclusive education is raised by parents, including offering advice to engage parents in inclusive education

Hackney District affirms its support for NEU Conference Policy.

Prop: Richard Rieser

Sec: Jane Bassett

Campaign against climate change

This branch/region/trades council notes that in 2019 global temperature records are not just being broken, but surpassed by an unprecedented margin.

The impacts on both humans and ecosystems are also multiplying, from floods in Europe to wildfires in the Amazon, the Arctic, Russia, Africa and Australia to devastation of parts of the Great Barrier Reef.

It notes that despite rhetoric of ambition around the Paris climate agreement, governments' commitments fall well short of what would be needed to limit global temperatures to a 2C rise, let alone 1.5C.

In particular, the UK government's backtracking on climate change policies is noted, including dramatically cutting support to renewables, cutting energy efficiency / warm homes funding, and promoting fracking.

It believes that measures like those proposed in the "One Million Climate Jobs" report would not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also, by boosting the economy, offer an alternative to austerity.

It further believes that trade unions have a vital role to play in bringing about positive climate action.

The branch/region/ trades council therefore resolves:

1. To affiliate to the Campaign against Climate Change and to send a representative to meetings of its Trade Union Group
2. To make a bulk order for copies of the new edition of the One Million Climate Jobs report for sale to members. [Copies can be ordered through the link at <http://www.campaigncc.org/climatejobs>].
3. To notify the Campaign against Climate Change Trade Union Group of our decision by e-mailing info@campaigncc.org
4. To support any future students strikes against climate change
5. To make a £50 donation to both the local Hackney Extinction Rebellion campaign and Sustainable Hackney

Prop: Des Barrow

Sec : Sandra McCloud

Minutes of General Meeting of Hackney NEU Monday 20th May

1. Request for Suspension of standing orders to take motion on Special Education Needs and Disability Emergency. Agreed.
2. Minutes from previous General Meeting. Agreed.
3. Matters arising: none
4. Fixed business. Megan Quinn spoke on the current campaign to scrap SATs.
5. Information from committee meetings (see minutes)
6. Secretary's and Officers report. Report given by Dave Davies
7. Motions

Special Education Needs and Disability

Hackney District of the NEU notes that in addition to the worsening funding and the multiple effects of High Stakes testing, narrowing of the curriculum and increasing use of punitive behaviour management system; that the long-awaited Timpson Report on Exclusions, while demonstrating the developing problem makes few effective recommendations. In addition, today we note the worsening position of children with learning difficulties and autism being increasingly sectioned and segregated far from home in the mental health system, as demonstrated by the Children Commissioner's Report on Vulnerability. In effect they are punished for their impairment. We further note that the majority of evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on SEND on the 2014 Reforms shows the Reforms have failed.

In light of the above worsening situation, the Hackney District of the NEU calls on the Executive to:-

- i) To increase the efforts of the Union to ensure a good Funding Settlement from the Treasury for Education Funding and SEND in particular
- ii) Continue the parental and public campaign against SEND cuts after the National Day of Demonstrations on 30th May 2019
- iii) Regularly analyse and inform all members of the Crisis in SEND;
- iv) Support, organise and build for the Day of Action on 4th December 2019 on Disability Equality in Education for disabled staff and students called by UCU and ensure all schools take part.

Carried

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.

Carried