

Delegates Assembly

May 24, 2018

- I. Governor's Meeting
 - A. Groups of teachers have met with the governor regarding students and mental health issues in the schools. Approximately half of students in RI are coming into school with possible mental health issues and in crisis.
 - B. Next meeting is June 6 in East Providence
- II. NEA National
 - A. Dues will be raised \$3.00.
 - B. NEARI does not have a dues increase for 2018-2019.
- III. Janus Decision
 - A. NEARI estimates losing 30% of its membership. They can cover this loss for 2-3 years without cutting services.
 1. Looking into combining services with other unions
 2. Eliminating positions as people retire
 - B. Decision possible sometime in June.
 1. After the decision a conference call with John Leidecker will be scheduled to review the specifics of the decision.
 - C. By eliminating unions, non-union employees cannot file class-action lawsuits. Any suit needs to be filed individually.
 - D. Groups funded by Waltons and the Koch Brothers are ready with non-union material.
- IV. Legislative Update
 - A. RI has a budget surplus.
 - B. The school construction bond has support and will be on the ballot in November 2018
 - C. School safety bills are in the legislature.
 - D. Normally, NEARI is against anything that dictates what is taught. The exception is a current proposal for adding suicide prevention and substance abuse to health curriculum.
 - E. The continuing contract seems to have governor's support to extend a contract for three-years and in those three years have a study on binding arbitration.
- V. Certification
 - A. The commissioner wants the process to be teacher-driven rather than administrative-driven.
 - B. There are recommended changes in draft form.
 1. This draft will be examined through August and then there will be public hearings in the Fall.
 2. The draft will go back to the K-12 Council. Changes NEARI would like to see:
 - a) School nurse teachers need to be hired rather than R.Ns
 - b) Recertification hours are too high
- VI. Send suggestions for professional development to NEARI
- VII. NEA
 - A. Add "Community Allie" as a category for membership. These are people who support public education.