**TACOMA FEDERATION OF EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS LOCAL 461**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

**January 23, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**

**Welcome**. Thank you to the members who attended the meeting held via Zoom. 65 members were present. Also present were Steven Diederick, HR Director, and Andrea Frazier, Professional Development Coordinator, for Tacoma Public Schools. Mr. Diederick and Ms. Frazier attended to help answer our many questions regarding the new Para Certification requirements. Notes of the Q & A session are attached to these minutes.

**Meeting was called to order by President Kari Madden at 6:05 p.m.** The official meeting was called to order at the conclusion of the Q&A with district personnel.

**Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded** that the November 28, 2023 meeting minutes be approved as presented. **MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES PASSED**.

**President’s Report**: Kari Madden reported that we are getting ready to prepare for bargaining. We will be setting up meetings for individual work groups.

**First Vice President’s Report**: Melissa Roach reported about the upcoming Lobby Day on February 19th in Olympia. Richard Burton of AFT WA is gathering testimony from paraeducators to present to legislators.

**Second Vice President/Membership Report**: Anitra Wise reported that we have had representatives attending new member orientations. We are working on getting our members to become more involved in their union.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Treasurer Laura Robyn presented a monthly financial statement. She also discussed our need for volunteers for an audit committee. Interested members please contact Laura directly at 461treasurer@gmail.com.

**Pierce County Central Labor Council**: Tanya Hendrix presented information from the PCCLC:

* They are working to update their Bylaws, which haven’t been updated since 2006.
* They are encouraging the passing of Sumner Levies 1 & 2.
* The Tacoma water workers just had a successful contract action.

**AFT WA Report:** Our AFT WA Organizer, Javier Cortez, was absent.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business**: None.

**Good of the Order**: None.

**Next Meeting**: Tuesday, February 27th at 5:00 p.m. on Zoom

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Liz Walle, Secretary

1/23/2024

**Q&A with Steven Deaderick and Andrea Frazier re Para Certification Requirements**

**Q: Are these requirements for early learning staff also?**

 No, these are for K-12 paras only. Not required for early learning. Early learning can take courses, in case they plan to work in K-12 in the future, but not required.

**Q: Hours have been placed in NeoEd don’t seem to add up to required 28.**

 May be because hours for Safe Schools or Right Response have already been counted toward Para Cert Requirements.

**Q: What is the best place to find an overview of the requirements?**

 Use this link: <https://tps10.sharepoint.com/sites/pddept/SitePages/ESP-FCS.aspx>. There may also be videos from OSPI with an overview. Andrea Frazier will provide links.

**Q: Hours Required:**

 Round 1: Fundamental Course of Study: 28 hours within one year of employment. 28 hours specific courses

 Round 2: General Paraeducator Certificate: 70 additional hours. 70 hours can include any courses.

 Can include hours back to 2019 (but not hours used for Fundamental).

 Must be completed by 8/31/2026 for all current employees.

**Q: How to keep track of hours:**

 No more Lawson. To keep track in ESS, Clock hour forms are required. THIS IS NEW.

**Q: Clock hour forms for pay?**

 NO! Clock hour forms keep track of hours only. Same manner to require pay online as used in the past.

**Q: Not sure of hours/can we receive a transcript (like Lawson used to provide)?**

 Contact your HR Partner or Andrea Frazier

**Q: Moodles no longer?**

 Correct. The “Moodles” have been replaced with Edge Blackboard. Links on OSPI website.

**Q: What is the benefit for us? (More pay? Step up? Or ??)**

 No. **“Condition of Employment”** Required by Washington State

**Q: Advance Certificates beyond General Paraeducator Certificate?**

 Yes. OPTIONAL. Info on website

**Q: Where to find more information:**

Link: <https://tps10.sharepoint.com/sites/pddept/SitePages/ESP-FCS.aspx>. On HUB with videos of requirements, etc.

**Q: Will more content be added to course catalog to come up with 70 hours.** **Offering the same classes over and over.**

 PD will get a survey to our members what they want to see for courses. Also, reminder that online classes are available and other courses that can be program specific.

**Q: Does this certification take the place of an AA or ParaPro test requirement for employment?**

 No. This is in addition to those requirements and is completed after hire.

**Q: What if we have lost track of what classes we have taken and when?**

 Contact Andrea Frazier or HR partner. They can pull up training history and pull class lists.

**Q: Are subs required to get this certification?**

 No.

**Q: Isn’t there a cost to apply for the General Paraeducator Certificate?**

 Yes, we pay upfront, and will be reimbursed.

**Q: Question re using college courses toward stipend.**

 Different form than PDRA. College hours can be used toward continuing education stipend.

Lastly, Andrea Frazier reminded us that she is always available and happy to answer questions. Her contact info is:

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