



General Membership Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022 via Zoom

I. Call to Order

- a. @ 4:30PM Marty Fridgen (UTSWC President)

II. Roll Call – shall be done via Zoom

- a. 37 members present plus Tony Vega (Ed MN Rep.)

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. APPROVED without objection

IV. Approval of Minutes from October meeting

- a. APPROVED without objection

V. Reports

a. Treasurer

- i. Monthly finance report (UTSWC Treasurer Dave Donnelly not present) Marty F. read report to share UTSWC “very stable financially.”
- ii. Audit update “Still ongoing, will be finishing and sending out an update.”

b. Membership

- i. As of January 24 we have 1,287 members, 83 non-members

c. Member Rights

- i. Letters of intent for leaves/retirements due February 15 – final on March 15

- District will reach out to people who are on a leave.
- Reach out if you have any questions. TRA is very helpful.

- i. Transfer – timeline should be done and shared soon. 833/UTSWC will send out and post online once it is approved.

1. Principals are meeting about 2022-23 staffing later in the week and it should be finalized soon.

2. REMINDERS FOR ALL!

- a. DO NOT BE FACEBOOK FRIENDS OR SNAPCHAT WITH STUDENTS! NOT A GOOD IDEA!
- b. IF YOU HAVE GRIEVANCES, CONCERNS, ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IS HAPPENING, PLEASE COME TO YOUR UNION REPRESENTATIVE OR PRINCIPAL TO TALK ABOUT IT FIRST BEFORE GOING TO THE SCHOOL BOARD.
- c. IF YOU ARE ASKED TO HELP DURING PREP OR LUNCH, YOU CAN SAY NO!

- d. Negotiations
 - i. Preschool contract
 - Rescheduling some meetings are hoping to settle soon.
 - Surrounding districts are not all settled.
- e. Government Relations
 - i. Ed Mn Virtual Political Conference on Saturday – Anyone can attend and do not need to stay for all of it. It will be done by noon, see link from Marty’s email to sign up.
 - First part- Q and A with governor Walz
 - Second part – Small breakout sessions.
 - ii. MN Session starts next week
 - iii. 7+ Billion dollar surplus- Will be making decisions where this money goes.
 - iv. Virtual lobby days- Opportunities to join in and get your voice heard. Many will be putting in their opinion on where the surplus money will go. We will be fighting for a chunk of the \$\$\$ will go to education. Ed MN will also be pushing for bringing back the rule of 90. Surplus money could help fund this.
 - v. Campaign 2022 – Most all Minnesota congressional and executive seats are up for re-election. Washington County area will be a targeted local, so look for ways to get involved, participate, or take action. UTSWC/labor needs to do our part to ensure we have education/labor-friendly policies in place or to push off policies that do not support of pro-labor or pro-education. Some states are facing bills that may require cameras/microphones in every classroom, or lesson plans posted and published for all to see. UTSWC/Ed MN wants to ensure we have bills that support our efforts in education.

VI. Information/Discussion Items

- a. 2022-23 Calendar
 - i. Approved Last Thursday at Board meeting.
 - ii. There are a few new days added or slightly changed.
 - iii. <https://www.sowashco.org/about-us/news/article/~board/news/post/2022-23-calendar-approved-by-the-school-board>
- b. COVID
 - i. Masks – will continue in 833 until mandate/recommendation lifted.
 - ii. Supreme Court blocked OSHA mandate- district is not moving forward with a vaccine/testing mandate
 - iii. <https://www.sowashco.org/about-us/news/article/~board/news/post/closely-monitoring-school-covid-19-cases>
- c. Budget Adjustments- Presenting adjustments, more information to come. With the passing the levy, and with the surplus of the state and money possibly coming in, we are hoping there will be few.
- d. [Long Range Facilities Planning](#) – PowerPoint on district webpage January 20th meeting that shows this. We are a GROWING district.
 - i. Three plans – A, B, C – more information to come

- ii. One of the plans does discuss reallocating students from an elementary school. Or school closure.
- iii. 833 will be asking for community feedback. Please go and share your opinion if they ask for your feedback.
- iv. 2025- Hoping to finish construction. Planning to go out for a building bond in August.
- e. Voting for Ed Mn Rep Convention Delegates in February (convention is end of April)
 - i. Anticipating in-person in St. Paul this year.
- f. Voting for NEA Rep Assembly Delegates in February (convention is end of June/early July and will be in Chicago)
 - i. Anticipating in-person this year.
- g. Nominations for UTSWC Secretary and Treasurer (two-year term starting July 1st of 2022) will be at the February 28th general membership meeting. You must be in attendance to nominate or accept a nomination.
- h. Dave Nitti Scholarship – 3 x \$500.00 awards to recipients. Information from Nick J. and high school counselors.
- i. Upcoming workshops for members
 - i. “When Can I Afford to Retire?” – will be held virtually February 10th from 6-7:00pm

Ed Mn Political Conference

Saturday, January 29th

<https://web.cvent.com/event/1d97ee81-530a-4941-8b1c-532050bc16f2/regProcessStep1>

When Can I Afford to Retire Workshop

February 10th from 6:00-7:00 pm

This seminar will focus on those with a TRA pension.

During your working career your income comes from your salary. In retirement, your income comes from three sources; a pension, Social Security and other savings you have such as a 403(b). Whether you are an early career educator or nearing retirement, this seminar has valuable information for you.

Attending a When Can I Afford to Retire seminar will:

- Provide a general overview of defined benefit pensions
- Increase member level of understanding of retirement benefits
- Assist members with next steps for future planning

<https://www.cvent.com/c/express/182d4d15-d5a8-4c7a-af0c-d80c72a136c8>

VII. Other Items

VIII. Adjournment

- a. @ 5:59 (Marty F. UTSWC President)