

SRSEA Site Rep Meeting Minutes 4/18/2026

Call to order- 0915, Brandon

Last meeting (1/17/26) minutes shared. Jason motioned to approve with no changes. Pete seconded. Passed.

Agenda shared. Steve motioned to approve the agenda with modifications-remove OPH discussion about adding a counselor position. Seconded by Rachel. Approved.

Attendance and Introductions: Brandon Hennager, Bernt Halvorson, Cameron Browne, Mark Wackerfuss, Cale Cripe, AnDee Flohr, Steve Parizek, Scott Berglund, Pete Steen, Jason Bexell, Rachel Bergquist, Harmony Wilson

President-Brandon Hennager

- Contract
 - Finally working under new contract. Everyone should have received new pay rate and back pay.
- OFS (Organizing For Settlement) Funds
 - Ratification parties should be complete. Discussion that ratification parties should be changed to a gathering prior to negotiations to discuss needs/concerns that can be brought back to this group.
 - It was discussed this could happen in a back-to-school August meeting for the Academies and Perpich.
 - Printastik order partially completed. Vests were available at the meeting. Asked to wait to take vests unless you have your list because specific sizes and colors were ordered. Will figure out a way to get them out soon.
- Grievances
 - SCL (security posts) grievance still awaiting arbitration.
 - MSA (weather days) going to mediation. Cameron shared that there is a new law that requires a Meet and Confer prior to e-learning days to lay out expectations.
 - Teacher at FRB moving to step 2 of the process.
 - MSAD possible teacher termination. Teacher is on probation.
- SRSEA Exec Team Site Visits
 - The visit at the Academies in February went well. Looking to visit Perpich in the fall. Will schedule other sites soon.
- 2026 Representative Convention April 24-25
 - highest governing body, with hundreds of elected delegates meeting annually to set policy for the union.

- Mark Wackerfuss and Hannah Cushing from Lino Lakes will be attending for SRSEA.
- Teacher Appreciation Week, May 5/4-5/8/26. Discussion on what has been done in the past. Rachel motioned to spend \$15 per member for Teacher Appreciation. Seconded by Steve.
 - Site Leaders will purchase whatever is decided upon (can be different at each facility) and be reimbursed by the union (send to Bernt). Harmony will include the Reimbursement form with the minutes.
 - Please have completed/submitted by May 22.

Vice President-Cameron Browne

- VP elections are coming up in May. Will be sending out info for nominations. Cameron will run again. If contested, will pass the process off to Brandon or Harmony.
- PAC Committee- Screening by the PAC Board is ongoing, will be moving on to Republican and Democratic governor candidates. Nothing scheduled yet.

Treasurer-Bernt Halvorson

- Treasurer's report presented with next quarter's projected spending.
- Board decided against a dues holiday this year because it was recommended we increase our savings. Exec Board decided we will try to raise it by \$10,000: \$5,000 each year for the next 2 years. It was also discussed that with the stipend increases for the Exec Board and for in-person meetings for Site Leaders, we should wait and see how things look after a year. It is reviewed annually and if there is a surplus, we will revisit the dues holiday.
- Looking at EdMN rules to see if there is a time limit for requesting reimbursement. It would be better for tracking and budgeting if we could put an end date on requests. For example, requests need to be made within a year of incurring the expense.
 - It was suggested and agreed upon that we add this language to our Constitution and By-laws. We will need to vote on it at the Annual Membership Meeting in October.
- Rachel motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Cameron. Approved.

Membership Chair-AnDee Flohr

- Membership lists distributed. Asked sites to look them over for accuracy.
- AnDee shared that she will be retiring in February of 2028. It was suggested that, due to the complexity of her duties, we add a co-chair to work with her for at least a

year before her retirement. This led to a discussion about needing this kind of communication for passing along duties for all positions on the Exec Board. In order to help in soliciting for a co-chair, they should be compensated in some way. The group suggested that we add language to the Constitution stating that all positions on the Executive Board be allowed to add a co-chair for a period of up to 1 year. The co-chair will be paid half of the amount of the position's stipend, while the original person retains the full stipend amount.

- Bernt motioned to approve bringing this suggestion to a vote at the annual membership meeting in October. Rachel seconded. Motion passed.
- AnDee shared that From April 1, 2026, through Aug. 31, 2026, SRSEA teachers that are not currently dues paying members may enroll for membership now with no dues payments until September.
 - Harmony will share the link for potential members to join.
 - Bernt will help coordinate a membership sign-up event for the Academies if there is interest.

Secretary-Harmony Wilson

- Keeping a record of concerns and/or things people want brought up at negotiations so we are prepared. We also want a record of dates that things are brought up or addressed.

Committee Updates

- PAC- Cameron shared during VP update.

Site Updates

DOC-Oak Park Heights (OPH)-Steve Parizek

- Due to officer staffing issues, shut down every Monday.
- Finding a lot of drugs in the facility, specifically fentanyl.
- Chaplain was "escorted out".
- OAS left so duties are falling on the librarian. Want to hire an OAS/CTA to cover those duties.
- New Ed Director starting at the beginning of July.
- Steve will be working another 4-5 years.
- Trying to decide how long to keep students who receive discipline out of school. Numbers are low.

DOC-Stillwater (STW)-Steve Parizek reported for of Jon Weiss

- Sharing a CTA with OPH for testing
- Chad is close to retirement

MN State Academy-Deaf (MSAD)- Scott Berglund

- New to union leadership. (Welcome!!) They have not had a union rep for a few years so they have felt disconnected from the union.
- Cameron said they will need to hold a Rep Election, on school time, to make it official. Send paper ballots to all members at site if more than 1 member is running. Let Brandon know so he can officially inform Superintendent.
- Academy staff want a transparent formula for ECAs (coaching). Right now, how it is decided what the pay will be is unknown and does not seem fair.
- Question about representing “potential” members. Brandon said we defend the contract, not the person, so if the contract is being violated, we will defend it.
- Purpose of a Meet and Confer was discussed. Try to meet about concerns teachers have before it becomes a contract issue.

DCT-Moose Lake (MSOP)- Pete Steen

- All is well. Supervisor is out for a while.

DCT-St. Peter- Jason Bexell

- Some clients are being sent to Le Sueur ABE for a Digital Literacy class. Union concerns were brought to admin. It was agreed that a letter will be drafted basically saying-don't make this a habit.

DOC-Moose Lake-Rachel Bergquist

- Could be Rachel's last union meeting as she is retiring.
- Suboxone clinic continues to be an issue at the facility. No accountability for ingesting the med and it's getting spit out and reused back on the unit.
- Will be doing distance learning 1-2 days a week due to security OT mitigation.
- There is a teacher still on leave (baby), a CTA in the WOOC (Brian), a former CTA was hired as a teacher (Kate), new CTA
- A little worried about the budget. Brandon added that he is attending the budget meetings DOC admin is holding. The DOC budget plan is coming out in a couple of weeks so there should be a plan in place within a month. DOC admin said to reach out directly to them with any questions or issues.

DOC-Faribault (FRB)- Bernt Halvorson

- No issues

Perpich- Cameron Browne

- A fulltime teacher is retiring and they are replacing with a .8 position. There is frustration that they keep hiring people as part time, specifically in one department.
- There is concern that the state funding allotted for training for READ Act implementation cannot be used by our K-12 schools be we are a state agency. Cameron is going to work with the MSAs to see if there are concerns and how they can be addressed.
- Plan to have a “walk-in” May Day event to show support for other unions working without a contract.

DOC-Lino Lakes- Mark Wackerfuss

- Doubling the size of education-all space will be for college courses.
- Teachers are being asked to provide guidance to the college teachers, there is/could be security issues.
- Mark is providing OSHA training. A team has been developed to travel to different facilities to provide the training. Headed up by the Safety Director from Central Office.
- Former CTA is now overseeing all of the college classes.

DOC-St. Cloud (SCL)- Cale Cripe

- Special Education teacher retired and new one is starting in August.
- Had hired a CTA but only lasted 2 days.
- Programming may be affected by officer shortage.
- Learned, through recent retirement, that finding specific forms and getting correct information about transferring vacation hours to deferred comp was difficult. Brandon offered to find the link. It can be found by navigating to the main DOC iShare page>Financial Services (quick link on left)>Staff Payroll and Business expenses button>document below is under Payroll Documentation and Tip Sheets
 - [SRSEA Vac to def comp instructions.pdf](#)
- Had a large graduation ceremony last week, try to do one every 6 months.
- Down a teacher, CTA ,and OAS

DOC-Shakopee (SHK)- AnDee Flohr

- There is upcoming construction. All ABE will be displaced.
- ABE teachers are starting to do credit recovery

- When construction is done, staff want to push for another vocational program for general population. There is only Cosmetology right now. AnDee's course is only offered in CIP.

Not in attendance:

- DOC-FRB, Victor Rodriguez, Gregg Sartor
- DOC-RC, Wade Brabant
- DOC-RW, Jeff Nolte, Suzanne Meredith
- DOC-STW, Jon Weiss
- DOC-TOGO, Matthew Temte
- DOC-WR, Steve Crump
- MSAD, Gloria Nathanson, Sabrina Hubmer
- ED MN REP, Erin Azer
- EXEC BOARD-PD COORD, Justine Hill

Motion made to adjourn by Pete. Seconded by Cameron. Meeting adjourned at 1250