WSR Exec. Board/General Membership Meeting Minutes

5/9/22 1:30/2:00PM via Zoom

1:30: Exec Board Members Present: Dorie Ciulla, Donna Sabella, Grace Bryant, Carol Gardiner, Jennifer Loughran, Judy Bernstein, Connie Champlin, Camille Lupa, Diane Watson

\*reviewed agenda for the general membership meeting, rearranged agenda items to accommodate those who had to leave early, practiced co-sharing. Diane shared newsletter draft. Everyone shared revisions needed. Newsletter will be finalized after scholarship winners are decided May 16th.

2:00: General Membership Members present: Dorie Ciulla, Donna Sabella, Grace Bryant, Carol Gardiner, Jennifer Loughran, Judy Bernstein, Connie Champlin, Camille Lupa, Diane Watson, Sue Nettler, Paul Lightbourne, Ann Sela, David Dahle, Gwen Collins, Chickie Kauffman, Annie Hurst Smith, Phyllis Berkowitz

\*Vote Cope: Carol- State budget includes funding for Tier 6 revisions to benefit teachers. A rep from NYSUT is available to speak with local chapters to provide info on Vote Cope. Still no info on getting WSR’s 20% from Vote Cope money- next step- waiting for response from someone at NYSUT.

\*Treasurer’s Report: Connie- $6279.23 in account. Paid for Visme website upgrade for creating and editing Newsletter, Spring luncheon at Galleria, WSR taxes.

\*Spring Luncheon: Connie- Luncheon at the Galleria, Wed. June 8th, 12-3. Mail check to Connie by June 1st to attend. Connie reserved Westbury Manor for our holiday luncheon on Dec 7th.

\*Celebrating Members: Connie-New initiative: celebrating our members. Mikey will send out Congratulation cards this June and annually to members as they reach milestone retiree years.

\*Amendment to the WSR By-Laws: Dorie: Members voted to affirm the changes to Article VI- committees.

\*Dorie held moment of silence for members who have passed. Mo Beres, Ed Krinsky, Barbara Hickey, Eleanor Merritt, Pat Francis, Thelma Tribble, Gwen Clement.

\*WTA Liaison Report: Donna- Teachers have been wearing WTA T-shirts twice a week to show solidarity. There has been a positive response. WTA planning to set up auxiliary board of people ready to step in as union leaders retire to fill vacancies quickly. Teacher’s issues regarding health and safety are being addressed by district. Teachers advised to send complaints in writing to superintendent. The WTA winter pajama drive, collecting and delivering pajamas to those in need, was very successful. Plans are being made to hold a school supply and toy drive. Three members of School Board are running unopposed. WTA president Shahanna will send WSR the contact info for new retirees. Anyone interested in working NYSUT phone banks for the school budget vote can volunteer from home- special phone number will be provided.

\*Scholarship: Camille- 10 seniors submitted entries. Committee will read and choose 5 winners Monday May 16th. Scholarship-$600.

\*Acronym Ice Breaker: Diane- presented PPT acronym game. Members challenged their knowledge of acronyms and had fun!

\*WSR Website/Newsletter: Diane- quick update and reminder to check website and how to find web address easily. Presented an overview of newly revised Newsletter. Reminded members they can submit entries. 2 members David and Judy responded that they will.

\*Communications: Jennifer- Clarification was made on which email address to use to send any communications to Jennifer- ie. personal info updates/submissions to Newsletter or anything else.

\*Your Turn: Donna brought back wonderful memories by showing a photo of her son at 11 in the classroom with a young WSR member Phyllis Berkowitz working on a project. A wonderful moment that we all, as teachers, could relate to!

\*June meeting will be at the Spring Luncheon at the Galleria on June 8th. Someone will take pictures!

Respectfully submitted,

Diane☺