



National Education Union
The NEU Office
Chatsworth Hall
Chesterfield Road
Matlock
DE4 3FW

SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT

General Meeting - 6th October 2022

The Dragon Willington DE65 6BP

Secretary—Chris Baldwin | 07498 446 108 | christopher.baldwin@neu.org.uk

Treasurer—Daniel Bracken-Neale | 07498 446 146 | daniel.bracken-neale@neu.org.uk

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Committee Agenda

1) Present

Monica White, Daniel Bracken-Neale, Philippa Saddington, Chris Baldwin, Kerry Lowes, Robin Pardo Roques, Paula Brassington, Gina Worth, Anna Bentley, Bozhana Bozhilova, Julie Nall, Wendy Hardy (7:10pm onwards)

Apologies – Simon Patchett, Polly Thornley, John Holmes, Tim Wherly

2) Minutes from 11th May 2022 are a true record, Proposed by MW, Seconded by DBN. All in favour.

3) Secretary's Report

Continuing to support members around workplace issues, queries, and concerns.

Engagement in ballot meetings and activities.

Excellent event from Daniel Bracken-Neale in the Slice of India, we should support future social activities

Also, presented at the Derbyshire ECT sessions, as usual we were the only Union there.

Strike Map UK

At their meeting in July, the Executive noted the excellent work of [Strike Map UK](https://www.strike-map.co.uk) in sharing information and building solidarity across the union movement for workers taking industrial action. The Executive agreed a donation to Strike Map and to encourage NEU Districts to affiliate too - individuals can also register as supporters of Strike Map UK for a small monthly donation.

Attending training around Long covid, representing members.

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Attended the in-person Sexual Harassment toolkit launch.

DBN included information around the letter surrounding the letter to Education Secretary explaining that the NEU will ballot for strike action. It's crucial for members to ensure their postal addresses are up to date. The intent will be to coordinate with other Unions to have maximum impact, and we must oppose the narrative demonising Union activity. The pay increase must be fully funded.

There was a general discussion based on the ballot turnout activity.

4) Treasurer's Report – DBN presented his report and discussed member engagement activities, recruitment, and campaign promotion. DBN reiterated that we are the only Union who attend many activities, and that we should purchase merch to support recruitment events. RPR suggested that porcelain and bamboo mugs are a great talking point. Also that the highlighters and pens always go down well. PB proposed the accounts, RPR seconded. All in favour. DBN proposed to use small business accountants.

General Meeting Agenda

- 1) Present & Apologies (as above)
- 2) DBN explained that the office in Matlock was condemned, and Derbyshire have found a new block on the same site at the same rent. Useful for merch storage and discreet member meetings.
- 3) Guest speakers Daniel Kebede and Niamh Sweeney each gave a talk to support their campaigns to become the next NEU General Secretary. The meeting moved to vote for the General Secretary at the next meeting after having time to reflect on the presentations given.
- 4) Representation at Conferences – Member representation at the LGBTQ+ Conference, CB invited them to come speak about it at a future meeting. CB to reach out to members who attend conferences to provide a written report where necessary. All events and conferences are available to view on the NEU Derbyshire website. DBN has booked the hotel ready for Harrogate conference 2023.
- 5) Equality Issues. DBN explained that menopause policies are being adopted by some academies, and that Derbyshire Local Authority are working on one. Period absence should be a consideration for removal from absence records also. DBN to draft an equality-based motion to propose to conference around the punitive nature of absence policies for issues relating to protected characteristics.

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6) Issues in Schools. There was a general discussion around the mental health of young people and how current support and systems do not support this. There was also a discussion around Covid testing, and going into school whilst ill. There's a national issue around vaping in secondary schools, and could be an issue to provide support for young people.

7) Future Meetings

Wednesday 7th December – The Bulls Head Belper, DE56 2DL

Thursday 9th February – The Dragon Willington, DE65 6BP

Wednesday 8th March – Slice of India, DE56 2DL

Thursday 11th May – The Dragon Willington, DE65 6BP

Wednesday 5th July – The Bulls Head Belper, DE56 2DL

8) AOB (in advance to C. Baldwin if possible)

The Strike Map affiliation fee is £10 per district and their bank details are:

STRIKE MAP UK LTD

Account number: 15377574

Sort code: 04-06-05

CB proposed affiliation, RPR seconded. All in favour.

Model Motion for NEU Districts

Cuba Education Appeal

This District notes that:

- 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the US blockade of Cuba despite 29 UN General Assembly votes calling for its termination. The blockade causes shortages across all sectors in Cuba, including education.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic the blockade added to the suffering and loss of life on the island by preventing purchase and delivery of vital equipment and medicines to treat patients and the roll out Cuba's vaccination programme.
- Despite the blockade, Cuba with some of the best education indicators in Latin America has, in the year 2000, met all the objectives set by the UNESCO supported Education for All (EFA). Cuban students and teachers however are frequently forced to make do without many of the basic necessities that we take for granted.
- In 2021, Oxfam reported that, during the pandemic, the US blockade slowed the use of new technologies for teaching and forced Cuba to resort to broadcasting daily classes to 1.7 million students on television.

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- NEU members who have participated in delegations to Cuba all agree that the blockade is the fundamental hindrance to educational development in Cuba and results in noticeable shortages in Cuban classrooms.

This District welcomes:

- ‘Viva La Educación’ joint appeal by the NEU and the Cuba Solidarity Campaign to support students and teachers in Cuba by raising money for educational and teaching resources.

This District resolves:

- To donate £1,000 to the NEU Viva La Educación fundraising appeal details of which can be found at the following link: <https://vivaeducacion.org.uk/donate/>
- To encourage members and school groups to contribute to the appeal.
- To submit, as appropriate, motions on this issue to bodies such as Regional Councils, trades councils and Regional TUCs.

RPR proposed, MW seconded, 9 in favour, 2 abstentions.

Meeting closed at 20:19.

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