



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

SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT

## General Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – 6pm

The Bull's Head, Belper – DE56 2DL

Secretary–Chris Baldwin|07498 446 108| [christopher.baldwin@neu.org.uk](mailto:christopher.baldwin@neu.org.uk)

Treasurer–Daniel Bracken-Neale | 07498 446 146| [daniel.bracken-neale@neu.org.uk](mailto:daniel.bracken-neale@neu.org.uk)

[www.neuderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.neuderbyshire.org.uk)

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### Committee Agenda

- 1) **Present** – Daniel Bracken-NEALE, Tim Wherly, Keith Venables, Rob Bannister, Robin Pardo-Roques, Chris Baldwin, Lee Bateman, Bethany Angris, Tom Hollins, Sara Wroe, Gina Worth, Jessica Hadden, Clare Kenway, Su O'Boyle, Ali Fletcher, Paula Brassington, Andy Coutts, Eleanor Byrne, Nathan Barker, Emma Leafe, Noelia Babbs-Garcia

**Apologies** – Phillipa Saddington, Wendy Hardy, Amanda Turner, Peter Turner, Katja Garner, Lee Garrett, Monica White, Julie Nall, Deborah Turner, Ruth Hayter

- 2) **Previous Meeting Minutes** – RPR propose, PB second majority in favour

**Secretary's Report** – CB gave a report Continued casework, mainly supporting members around sickness absence. Long Covid guidance is very good.

Website at [NEUDerbyshire.org.uk](http://NEUDerbyshire.org.uk) updated weekly with international and national news, campaigns, events, training. WhatsApp appears to be for member discussion and social media being used for news and calls to action. Continuing to advise members and schools as appropriate.

Hardship Committee focus, very complex and will be simplified next academic year if needed. Derbyshire sent a small delegation to London, fantastic (long day) and showing the power of the union. Matlock Picnic Cancellation due to some red tape around the event and members not fussed about attending.

MAT union teams are becoming more important, building union communities within school and, therefore, building capacity. ECT devolution to Northern (Potentia) and Southern (Spencer Teaching School), September meetings scheduled in.

Thanks to members for getting engaged with wider union activities, training, and representation at events.

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- 3) **Treasurer's Report** – DBN gave a report on spending. Mainly on the hardship fund and merchandise. We still have healthy reserves. We agreed to increase the hardship fund last meeting to £18k (40% of subs). DBN proposed increasing to 60% of subs. GW seconded. RB said that it's the members' money therefore it should be put for the members' use. All in favour. At treasurers' conference suggested introducing a maximum flat payment per person per day for hardship. GW suggested a Main Scale and Upper Pay Scale limit.
- DB proposed a £2500 gross for the Secretary and Treasurer for the academic 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 academic year. RB seconded. All in favour.
- Merchandise has arrived, bottles, pens, and hoodies (meeting incentives).
- Office in Matlock has moved to another building. Whole site has come up to let, and likely that we will be kicked out.
- 4) **Equalities Officer's Update.** RB about to the equality conference report supplied by AT accompanying the meeting. RB encouraged members to take part in future conferences for empathy, networking, and understanding around key issues. DBN said that all schools should have a menopause policy. SoB asked around information and support for students identifying as trans. RB replied that guidance is pending from the government, and the union will respond accordingly. PB discussed mental health and cancer as a disability, but long Covid isn't. A discussion was held around categorising Long Covid as a disability. CB shared long Covid resources to the WhatsApp group and Long Covid Clinics. RB drew focus to the section of the guidance around identifying as a disabled member. DBN spoke as a disabled person and spoke about the reasonable adjustments and support available through self-identifying.
- 5) **H&S Officer's Update** – CB spoke about the National Hazards Conference, 1-3 Sep. Crumbling schools, asbestos.

## General Meeting Agenda

- 1) **Present & Apologies** – as above
- 2) **Industrial Action Update & Discussion**
- RPR spoke of KC video discussing the STRB, and funding issues
- RB attended the Summer Activists Conference and was complimentary about the experience and the feeling of solidarity. KC as a keynote speaker at this event spoke about the situation surrounding the dispute changing and proposed a balanced view to members, whilst encouraging members to support the union. Regional events are soon to be published, and RB encouraged members to sign up for training.

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Rumours of 6.5% pay increase from combination of existing funding and new money (£1bn). DBN spoke of the importance of NAHT vote (ballot closes on 31<sup>st</sup> July) for collectivised disruption, particularly around primary schools.

NGB asked about the choices of dates for strike action. No definite response but ideas presented around keeping the public in favour of union and raising awareness through the media by coinciding with wider political events.

A general discussion was held around the funding and industrial action issues.

KV spoke about members joining Unite Community, who offered solidarity and for NEU to stay connected with Unite Community to act in solidarity between unions. He spoke about an event in the Congregational Church in Belper on 13<sup>th</sup> September (enough is enough) where all NEU members are welcome (organised by Banner Theatre).

- 3) **International Solidarity** – SR spoke about NEU solidarity internationally. Application for delegation unsuccessful. SR International Solidarity Conference happens Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. CB and DBN spoke about supporting members who wish to represent NEU Southern Derbyshire at a conference, and asked that members come back to a meeting to feedback their learning and experiences.

4) **Issues in Schools**

Use of gained time for cover is an issue, reps encouraged to discuss rarely cover with leaders.

- 5) **Future Meetings** – CBN to arrange next year's meetings based on similar venues, days of the week, and in good time for union due dates.

6) **AOB**

RPR spoke of issues with members experiencing issues around strike deductions conflicting with burgundy book. Advised for members to contact advice line if they have issues with this.

RB explained that EMET policies have been challenged by the regional NEU office in relation to inconsistencies with the burgundy book (pay and conditions for teachers).

CB reported that Falcon MAT is being closed by the DFE and that The William Allitt Academy will change name to Mercia Academy.