

WEA LGBTQ Caucus Meeting 4-12-24

April 12th Meeting Minutes

Joe Bento - Co-Chair, Nicole Harris - Secretary, Deanna Youngren – Treasurer

Attendance: Annaleisa Franklin Pierce, Gavin Tacoma, Alex Bethel, Maria Renton, Sasha Evergreen, Jason Pasco, Maya, Steve Tacoma, Justin Montesano, Victoria Walla Walla, Ethan Spokane, Nicolette Highline, Roni, Angela Seattle, Liz Evergreen, Gavin Kent. More came in without introductions.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. NBIs
 - a. NBI 25 LGBTQ+ Educator Conference
 - i. Joe spent lots of time to get the price lowered. Down to \$50,000 in non-staff costs.
 - ii. Roni moved caucus position of support. Seconded.
 - iii. Debate
 1. Costs have risen with inflation and are a concern, if it becomes annual it will be cheaper.
 2. Security is a concern.
 3. Legal breakout is needed.
 - a. What can admin order removed from an educators space?
 - b. Legal protections for provisional teachers.
 4. Possible use of Puget Sound Skills Center
 5. Alternate Funding Options, Grants
 6. The new inclusive materials have passed the legislature.
 - a. LGBTQ+ Educators and their allies need to know it and focus it.
 - b. If we do not take the lead on this, others will.
 - iv. Motion Carries
 - b. NBI 46 LGBTQ+ Inclusive Book Fund
 - i. Brought to the floor last year and passed, small and rural communities book fund.
 - ii. Opened grant and ran out immediately. Very needed.
 - iii. Gavin moves caucus position of support, seconded.
 - iv. Debate
 1. Isolation, intersectionality, students need to see themselves in stories.
 2. Follows up on the new law that keeps these books from being removed.
 3. Request \$500 per local, to send books queer books to rural schools.
 4. Classroom libraries do not have the same protection as school libraries.
 5. Who chooses the books? Can you partner with PFLAG for booklists? NEA Resources, booklists, NEA LGBTQ+ caucus has resources. Question, will be brought to the floor.
 - v. Motion Carries.
3. Washington State Senate 24th LD candidate Eric Pickins
 - a. Spoke to his candidacy.
 - b. 2 Primary opponents
 - c. Purple district
 - d. Openly supports LGBTQ+ rights.
4. Return to NBIs
 - a. NBI 12 Privacy Protections for Transgender Students
 - i. Moves to support this NBI, seconded.
 - ii. Debate

1. The legal language that protects trans students says should not, not does not, this is important.
2. In some districts, kids must go through the counselor and principal before admin decides if they tell the parents any changes to name/pronouns.
3. We need to take the lead to prevent the new parents bills of rights from going poorly.
4. School Boards are passing policy of local control to get out of laws that are passing.
5. Protections need to be in law.
6. Is it the goal for it to change the RCW to have stronger language? Question for the floor.
- iii. Motion Carries
- b. NBI 50 Lobbying for Certificated School Librarians
 - i. Gavin moves a position of support, Gavin seconds.
 - ii. Debate
 1. Attacks across country, district cutting librarians, part of funding model that is paid for by the state.
 2. There was a bill in the legislature last year that would require districts to make sure that students have access. WEA took no position, concerned that paras would lose jobs, this NBI wants to advocate for both librarians and paras.
 3. This is in our resolutions, lets support it in practice,
 4. Libraries are the first line of defense fighting censorship. Help kids find representation.
 5. WASDA wants to be able to spend the money however they want.
 6. Might have one librarian per district for a small district, would fit this language
 7. Issues for small and rural districts who cannot find a certified applicant.
 8. A virtual librarian can count if needed.
 - iii. Motion carries
5. Pride Festivals
 - a. We need volunteers for Seattle Pride
 - b. Joe has put the form for that and the other prides on the caucus website.
 - c. Check the website to sign up!
 - d. Tabling Purpose
 - i. Provide community presence.
 - ii. Give out swag!
 - iii. Get memberships, associate for supporters and active for WEA Members
 - e. The caucus is invited to Tri Cities Pride by Jason who will send a follow up to Joe.
6. Election Announcements
 - a. More information tomorrow
 - b. Vote on bylaws changes
 - i. Voting will take place online the week after RA for all active members.
 - c. Vote on all officers
 - i. If only one candidate for an office, will be held by acclamation.
 - ii. If multiple candidates, voting will be held with the possible bylaw changes.
7. Good of the Order
 - a. Globe Bar and Kitchen has drag show 9:00 PM, not official, support your local drag queens.
8. Adjournment