

MICHIGAN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, SEIU LOCAL 517M
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, December 9, 2023 – Zoom Meeting – 10:00am

I. ROLL CALL /ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

A. Roll Call, Declaration of Quorum:

Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Grochowski conducted roll call. Board Members President Joey Combs, Secretary-Treasurer Bryan Grochowski, DVP Yolanda Johnson, DVP Janice Cosey, DVP Michelle Kusnier, Director Jason Jackson, Director Edward Barr, Director Leni Steiner-Zehender, Director Greg Merricle, Director Anna Schiller, Director Roland Whitelow, & Director Roberta Oldenburg, were present. DVP Leticia Trevino, DVP Carmella Johnson, DVP Rod Jackson, Director Kevin Mercado, and Director Jan Martin were absent. A quorum was declared at **10:09AM**.

B. Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes from the July 29, 2023 Executive Board meeting were presented by Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski. DVP Y. Johnson made a **MOTION** to approve the meeting's minutes. **SUPPORTED** by DVP Kusnier. The **MOTION** carried.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A. Opening Remarks: President Combs wished everyone a happy morning and thanked everyone for talking time out of their Saturday to be on the meeting.

B. 2024 Executive Board Meeting Dates (3/30, 6/29, 9/28, 12/14): President Combs announced the meeting date being Saturday, March 30, June 29, September 28, and December 12, 2024, at 10:00am. Hybrid meetings were agreed upon for those who are unable to make it in person.

C. Ethics Oath email will be sent out January 2024 President Combs stated that the Ethics Oaths will be sent out January 2, 2024 and will be due on by end of day January 19, 2024.

D. Dues Rates Increase (State/SLG):

President Combs addressed the challenges stemming from the increase in dues for both the State and SLG sides, delving into the associated issues and concerns.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. 2023 – SOM Reauthorization: Interim Executive Director Joey Combs announced the final percent for the State of Michigan Reauthorization campaign as 96.1%.

B. DFR/ULP Training 1/20/24 & Steward Training: March 9 &10, 2024: Interim ED Combs provided details regarding the Core Leadership Training scheduled via Zoom on January 20, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, emphasizing its mandatory nature for all leaders. Additionally, Steward Training is slated for March 9 and 10, 2024, with registration commencing at 12:00 PM, to be conducted at the AC Hotel in Lansing, MI.

C. Information Services Report: Interim ED Combs presented the Information Service Report prepared by Dave Corrie. Full details of the report are in the packet. Interim ED Combs updated the Executive Board on the status of our reviewing and updating the unit and region bylaws to ensure compliance with our new Constitution and Bylaws for SEIU Local 517M. After they are determined to be following the SEIU Local 517M Constitution and Bylaws they will be forwarded to the Executive Board for approval and that will be the date that they are effective on.

D. Member Strength Update: Interim ED Combs spoke about the dues check off for schools coming into effect on February 13, 2024 and that we will need people to volunteer to help with that. Both DVP Kusnier and Director Steiner-Zehender have been working to help with S&E on-

boarding. DVP Kusnier will be forwarding names to join in on NEOs that would like to get more involved.

- E. **Legislative/Advocacy Work:** Interim ED Combs went deeper into the importance of payroll deductions for schools.
- F. **20% Plan Submittal:** Interim ED Combs submitted the 20% plan request to the International on November 20, 2023. The submission largely mirrors previous years' requests, with the inclusion of deductions related to schools.
- G. **TWR 2024 Local Member Strength Plan:** Interim ED Combs submitted the Together We Rise 2024 Local Member Strength Plan on December 5, 2023. This prompts consideration of upcoming initiatives, including outreach efforts such as the ratification bonus, schools' dues deduction, state bargaining, state reauthorization, and contract campaigns.
- H. **Disclaimed Unit:** Interim ED Combs spoke regarding Otsego Public Schools which was disclaimed after all payers opted out following the dues increase letter from the office.
- I. **USA Staff Bargaining/Staff Assignment Changes:** Interim ED Combs introduced Lamont Williams as the new Labor Representative for Region 3, providing insight into his background. With Mr. Williams' appointment, there have been updates to staff assignments. The staff bargaining process is now finalized, with the contract set to remain effective through December 31, 2025

IV. **SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- A. **Financial Report (June, July, August, & September Financials):** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski presented the June, July, August, and September 2023 financial statements. DVP Cosey made a **MOTION** to accept the financial statements. **SUPPORTED** by Director Jackson. **MOTION** carries.
- B. **COPE Report:** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski presented the COPE report. Our 2023 goal is \$23,770 and we reached

47% of our goal at the end of November 2023.

- C. **Approval of SEIU 517M 2024 12-Month Budget (DELAYED):** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski addressed the ongoing strike at BCBS, resulting in a delay in finalizing the 2024 budget. Additionally, the upcoming change in the calendar year will impact open enrollment procedures. It is anticipated the budget committee will convene in late January 2024 to address these matters.
- D. **2022-2023 Audit:** Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski spoke regarding the 2022-2023 Audit.

V. **UNIT & REGION REPORTS:**

- A. Detailed reports included in Board packet.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

VII. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

President Combs thanked the Executive Officers for their assistance during this transition period.

Director Martin thanked President Combs for listening to the needs of the board for Steward Training.

DVP Johnson thanked President Combs for working so hard to repeal preemption for local governments.

Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski hopes that the Cope Committee can be more active in 2024.

President Combs would like five names from each region and state units to volunteer for the Cope Committee.

- VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** The **MOTION TO ADJOURN** was made by DVP C. Johnson. **SUPPORTED** by Secretary-Treasurer Grochowski. The meeting adjourned at **12:35 PM**.