

## General District Meeting

Agenda 02/10/2025

Venue: The Merebrook, Bromborough

Attendees: See attached register

Apologies	Terry Dobbins, Kate Wilson, Jennifer Coles, Mike Studley, David Buckley	
Minutes/Matters Arising	Owl Purchased	
Welcome Introductions	New President and Vice President New Treasurer	
Reports		
Local Disputes	St Josphehs, Birkenhead	
On going concerns	Update from Treasurer	
Correspondence	Regional Office – Fighting the Far Right, Funding, STRB	
Motions requiring voting	Otter.ai	
Conference 2026	Motions to be put forward Do we want a motion day?	
Upcoming events	Conference Nominations Motions for conference Date of Next Meeting 29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	
AOB		

Appendix

Last Minutes

**General District Meeting**

Agenda 03/07/2025

Venue: The Red Cat

Attendees

District meeting 03/07/2025	Ciara Mc Entee	WGSB
District meeting 03/07/2025	Paul Ronayne	Ret.
District meeting 03/07/2025	Janet	Maher
District meeting 03/07/2025	Kristian Patten	The Observatory School
District meeting 03/07/2025	Susanne Blackburn	The Observatory School Leasowe Campus
District meeting 03/07/2025	Nichola Murphy	The Observatory School
District meeting 03/07/2025	Michael Farrelly	Stanley school
District meeting 03/07/2025	Helen O'Brien	Wirral grammar boys
District meeting 03/07/2025	Mike Studley	The Priory Parish CE Primary School
District meeting 03/07/2025	Kate Wilson	BHSA
District meeting 03/07/2025	Katie Karran-Antrobus	BHSA
District meeting 03/07/2025	Debbie Dewar	Mount Primary school
District meeting 03/07/2025	Wayne Blessing	Clare Mount
District meeting 03/07/2025	Michael Lively	Pensby High School
District meeting 03/07/2025	Sarah Badzire	Clare Mount
District meeting 03/07/2025	Ferdushi Mohshin	Woodlands Primary School

District meeting 03/07/2025	Malka Billing	Retired
District meeting 03/07/2025	Richard MacKenzie	Christ the King Catholic Primary School, Bromborough
District meeting 03/07/2025	Catharine Kingsland	Wirral Home Education Service
District meeting 03/07/2025	Terry Dobbins	Somerville
District meeting 03/07/2025	Catherine walsh	Stanley School
Apologies		
Minutes/Matters Arising	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minutes of last district meeting are a true account: MT Proposed <b>CM Seconded Passed by majority.</b></li> <li>2. All AGM Decisions to be ratified as a whole <b>MF proposed TD seconded Voted for unanimously.</b></li> </ol> <p>Future Honoraria 2025/26</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. District Secretary £5835+STRB</li> <li>2. Assistant District Secretary £1167+STRB</li> <li>3. International Solidarity Officer £998.54+STRB</li> <li>4. Treasurer £1,659.15+strb</li> </ol>	
Welcome Introductions		
<b>Reports</b>		
Executive Elections	Do we nominate Sarah Kilpatrick for DGS? <b>NS proposed NM Seconded Voted unanimously</b>	
Local Disputes		
National Campaign	1. Neil Sledge-spoke about his work on Srebrenica and the 30th anniversary of the genocide on 11th July.	
On going concerns	Owl purchased	
Correspondence		
Financial Resources	Awarding of Honoraria	

	<p>Acknowledge change in personal from what agreed at AGM, Ian leaving replacing with Michael, Jan stepping down Paul remain in post</p> <p>Honorarium 2024/25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ian Harris District Secretary- 921.75(£5530.50/6x1) <b>MF proposes CM Seconded Accepted Voted for Unanimously</b></li> <li>2. Paul Ronayne District Treasurer £1172 <b>MF Proposed TD Seconded PR accepts. Voted for Unanimously</b></li> <li>3. Neil Sledge, International Solidarity Officer-£988.54 <b>MF Proposed TD Seconded NS Accepts Voted for Unanimously</b></li> <li>4. Michael Farrelly, Assistant District Secretary &amp; District Secretary £5069.58 (£5530.50/6x5+ 2025/6) <b>FM Proposes PR Seconded MF Accepts Voted for Unanimously</b></li> </ol>	
Upcoming events		
AOB		

## SEND Motion

### **Motion 1: Addressing Challenges in SEND Provision for Educators**

**Proposed by: Michael Farrelly / Wirral District**

#### **Conference notes:**

1. The number of students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in UK schools has increased significantly in recent years. [Footnote: Department for Education, Special Educational Needs in England, 2023]
2. Funding for SEND provision has not kept pace with the growing demand. [Footnote: National Audit Office, Support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities in England, 2020]
3. Many educators report insufficient training and support to meet the needs of SEND students. [Footnote: NEU Member Survey on SEND Provision, 2022]

#### **Conference believes:**

1. Every child deserves access to high-quality education, regardless of their needs.
2. Educators must be equipped with adequate training and resources to support SEND students effectively.
3. The current system places undue pressure on educators, affecting their well-being and the quality of education.
4. Collaboration between the NEU, government, and other stakeholders is essential to improve SEND provision.

#### **Conference instructs the executive to:**

1. Campaign for increased and fair funding for SEND provision across all educational settings.
2. Advocate for mandatory and comprehensive SEND training for all educators.
3. Establish a SEND Taskforce to develop and monitor a national strategy for SEND support.
4. Lobby for policies that reduce workload pressures and improve mental health support for educators working with SEND students.
5. Facilitate regular consultations and workshops to gather feedback and share best practices.

#### **Increase in SEND Students**

- **Source:** *Special Educational Needs in England: January 2023*
- **Publisher:** Department for Education
- **Summary:** Based on school census data, the number of pupils with SEND continues to rise, with detailed breakdowns by provision type and need
- **Link:** [gov.uk/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2023](https://gov.uk/statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england-january-2023)

#### **Funding Not Keeping Pace**

- **Source:** *Support for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in England*
- **Publisher:** National Audit Office

- **Summary:** The NAO report highlights that the SEND system is financially unsustainable, with many local authorities unable to meet demand within their budgets
- **Link:** [nao.org.uk/reports/support-for-pupils-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities](https://nao.org.uk/reports/support-for-pupils-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities)

### **Educator Training and Support Deficits**

- **Source:** *State of Education: SEND*
- **Publisher:** National Education Union
- **Summary:** A survey of over 8,000 NEU members found widespread lack of access to SEND specialists, training, and support, with 76% calling for more learning support assistants
- **Link:** [neu.org.uk/latest/press-releases/state-education-send](https://neu.org.uk/latest/press-releases/state-education-send)

## Violence in schools

### **Motion: Tackling Violence in Schools – A Union-Led Campaign**

Proposed by: Michael Farrelly / Wirral District

#### **Conference notes:**

1. Incidents of violence in UK schools—both student-on-student and student-on-staff—have risen significantly in recent years.<sup>1</sup>
2. Educators report increasing concerns about their safety and the emotional toll of managing violent behaviour.<sup>2</sup>
3. Schools serving disadvantaged communities are disproportionately affected by violence, often lacking adequate support and intervention resources.<sup>3</sup>
4. There is no consistent national strategy to address violence in schools, leaving educators and students vulnerable.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Conference believes:**

1. Every student and educator has the right to feel safe and supported in their learning and working environment.
2. Violence in schools undermines educational outcomes, staff retention, and student well-being.
3. A proactive, union-led campaign is essential to raise awareness, demand policy change, and support members affected by violence.
4. Collaboration with government, local authorities, and community organisations is vital to develop effective prevention and intervention strategies.

#### **Conference instructs the executive to:**

1. Launch a national campaign to reduce violence in schools, highlighting the impact on educators and students.
2. Lobby for a statutory national framework for school safety, including mandatory reporting, intervention protocols, and staff protection measures.

3. Advocate for increased funding for pastoral care, mental health support, and behaviour intervention teams in schools.
4. Provide training and resources for NEU members on de-escalation, trauma-informed practice, and legal rights regarding workplace safety.
5. Establish a Violence in Schools Taskforce to monitor trends, support affected members, and develop policy recommendations.
6. Facilitate regional forums and consultations to gather member experiences and share best practices for violence prevention.

Department for Education, “School and College Safety Statistics,” 2023

<sup>2</sup> NEU Member Survey on School Safety and Behaviour, 2024

<sup>3</sup> Education Policy Institute, “Behaviour and Safety in Schools,” 2022

<sup>4</sup> House of Commons Education Committee Report, “School Behaviour and Exclusions,” 2023

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