

NEA Resolutions Committee Winter Virtual Meeting

March 2 and 4, 2017

NEA-Retired Members' Report

The Thursday, March 2, meeting (Session 1) convened at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The Resolutions Committee Chairperson, Ralph Noble, delivered brief opening remarks and introduced the members of the Internal Editing Committee (IEC). The IEC and the Resolutions Committee staff were at NEA headquarters in Washington, DC, for the meeting.

This **first session** consisted primarily of open discussion on proposed business; the second session on Saturday, March 4, was more formal and included debate and voting. The one order of business for voting at the first session was the guidelines for the winter meeting so that all members would clearly understand the meeting's purpose and process. The vote to accept the guidelines was 102 to 3.

The rest of the time was spent by the chair's going over the log items submitted before the deadline and giving some rationale for the IEC recommendations. He pointed out that at the second session on Saturday we would be debating and considering the IEC recommendations for all of the items. Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the IEC recommendations at this time. Mr. Noble reminded the RC that forms for changes or proposals were available on line and that any items had to be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, on Friday, March 3.

The **second session** convened on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, with all motions being on the IEC recommendation--for, against, or as edited--for each log item. The following action items passed and will be transmitted to the 2016 NEA-RA for its consideration.

Action Items:

The IEC received two requests submitted with regard to specific changes proposed by members of the committee on the recommendations put forth by the IEC. These were accepted as friendly by the IEC. The requests came from Ross Dill, Retired member from Illinois (*I – 12 Human Rights*) and from Sid Kardon, Retired member from Michigan (*D – 21 Education Employee Evaluation*).

B - 1. Early Childhood Education

Replace the word "supports" with champions in the first sentence so it reads, "The National Education Association champions early childhood education programs in public schools for children from birth through age eight." Passed 115 to 4.

B – 2. Independent Reading Skills

Deletion in the first paragraph..."Teachers at all levels should be [provided adequate resources, including a fully funded and staffed school library media center, and] encouraged to use certified school library media center expertise to address the diverse needs of students." Passed 80 to 38.

B – 3. Effective Communication

Deletion and addition in the first paragraph... “The National Education Association believes that it is critical that students become effective communicators in school and in life [. Effective communication includes the written word, the spoken word, and] through all [other] forms of expression. Communication instruction is essential for learning in all content areas and for achieving high standards. [Educators should be provided adequate resources and encouraged to use their expertise to address the diverse needs of students.]” ... Passed 121 to 3.

B – 5. Student Attendance

Add the word truancy... “The Association supports the ongoing effects of schools and educators to minimize tardiness, truancy, and other attendance issues.” Passed 111 to 13.

B – 7. Expanding Student Graduation and Promotion Options

Resolution rewritten ... “The National Education Association believes that public high schools should employ multiple graduation and promotion options and create partnerships with colleges, alternative schools, and vocational, career and technical programs. These options also serve as valid indicators of readiness for postsecondary opportunities.” Passed 118 to 0.

B – 47. Vocational, Career, and Technical Student Organizations

A rewrite to update the language from “vocational, career, and technical student organizations” to “career and technical student organizations.” Passed 117 to 1.

D – 2. Teacher Preparation Programs: Recruitment and Promotion of the Field

Add title change and “The Association and its state and local affiliates should promote and support the establishment of organizations involving students of all ages interested in the field of education as a profession and encourage members to serve as advisors.” Passes 114-4.

D – 6. Teacher Preparation Programs: Content and Evaluation

Condense the resolution, combining items a, b, and c... “The National Education Association believes that teacher preparation programs must – a. Involve all stake holders in the design, implementation, evaluation, and improvement of teacher preparation programs. These stakeholders include licensed preK through adult education teachers and teacher educators who are practicing in their field of expertise and demonstrate practical knowledge of schools and classroom teaching as well as students preparing to teach.” Passed 69 to 48.

Delete part d because it is covered in other resolutions... “[d. Include proactive recruitment practices to diversify the teaching staff.]” Passed 108 to 9.

Revise item I to include former item g...”I. Provide a variety of field experiences, including the appropriate use of technology for managing and advancing instruction, throughout the preparation program, culminating in clinical practice.” Passed 118 to 0.

D – 16. Professional Development for Education Support Professionals

Added a list of requirements for professional development programs for education support professionals. Passed 117-1.

D – 21. Education Employee Evaluation

Addition to item a.... “The evaluation procedure ... should include a. Clear performance expectations that can be objectively assessed and are specific to the job description.” Passed 117 to 2.

F – 61. Retirement

Amend item a... “The Association believes that boards of trustees should – a. Consist of active and retired members who are all elected by and from their plan’s [active membership and retired members who are all elected by and from their plan’s retired membership] respective memberships; ...

Addition to item b... “Administer the plan with the highest level of fiscal integrity for the exclusive benefit of the beneficiaries of the system.”

Delete item g... “[g. Use actuarial and investment policies with the highest level of fiscal integrity.]” Renumber item h as g, item l as h and item j as l.

Amend old item l now renumbered item h. ...”h. Recognize that [in their role as fiduciaries,] they [can] should identify and participate in...” Passed 120 to 2.

Amend by deletion and addition in the last paragraph, “The Association also believes that-
a. Contributions made by both employees and employers to the pension plan should be [federal] tax deferred and not subject to [FICA] federal or state income taxes
[b. Contributions made by employers to the pension plan should not be subject to FICA taxes]
[c. Benefits paid should not be subject to any state’s income tax]”

Renumber item d as b, item e as c, and item f as d. Passed 124 to 0.

I – 12. Human Rights

Added a sentence ... “The Association urges countries – including the United States – to provide a safe haven for greater numbers of refugees who have fled devastation in their native countries during times of increased conflict, and condemns the stereotyping or refugee groups.” Passed 114 to 7.

A number of the submitted items were referred to one of the eight subcommittees of the Resolutions Committee (RC) for further consideration at the summer meeting. Each of your NEA Retired Resolutions Committee members is a member of one of these committees. Some items were not recommended by the IEC, with concurrence by the RC.

The summer meeting will be at the Boston Park Plaza in Boston with June 29 as the first committee meeting day, June 30 the Open Hearing, and July 1 the final meeting of the year for the RC.

Respectfully submitted by your NEA Retired Resolutions Representatives:

Ross Dill, Charlotte Green, Sandra Hatley, Sidney Kardon, Ron Moss, and Judy Rohde.