



NEWSLINE

From the President

Bob Naski

Welcome Back

Welcome back to another exciting and challenging new school year. I hope that you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. This year some of our challenges are: passage of the K-16 Coalition proposal for increased funding for education, NCLB, Election 2006, bargaining of a new contract and **most importantly** the education of our students. I know with your help all of these challenges will have positive outcomes.

Please feel free to contact any of your WEA leaders if you have any questions or concerns.

President

Bob Naski 586/573-7750

Vice President

Jon Fielbrandt Sterling Heights High School, ext. 14430

Trustees

Zone 1 Elementary (schools west of Van Dyke) Carolyn Moon Siersma Elementary

Zone 2 Elementary (schools east of Van Dyke) Lisa Sikoski Cromie Elementary

Zone 3 High School Bob Callender Warren Mott High School

Zone 4 Middle School John Cafagna Carter Middle School

Congressional Trustee Josh Weston Warren Mott High School

Building Rep Elections

Buildings should elect their WEA Building Representatives and Alternates by Wednesday, September 6, 2006. According to the WEA Constitution, buildings may have one representative for every fifteen WEA members or major fraction thereof. As soon as the Building Reps are elected, the building election official should call the WEA office and report the names no later than Thursday, September 7, 2006. *The WEA Building Rep is the most vital elected office in the organization and serves as the link between the WEA leadership and the members in the building. It is essential that every building be represented.* We encourage you to participate in this office and make this important contribution to your union.

The first Congress meeting, which is the monthly meeting of Building Representatives, will be Monday, September 11th at the Carter Middle School Media Center at 4:15 p.m.

Dues

The WEA/MEA/NEA dues for 2006-2007 are \$875.00. The break down is:

- MEA - \$620.00
- NEA - \$145.00
- WEA - \$110.00

Dues are deducted in ten equal installments beginning with the September 22, 2006 paycheck. The next paycheck following the tenth dues deduction will be for those who elect to make their voluntary PAC contribution through payroll deduction.

If you wish to pay your dues in a lump sum at the beginning of the year rather than by dues check-off, you must pay the full amount to us by Friday, September 1, 2006. If we do not receive your check by 4 p.m. on September 1, we will authorize payroll to make payroll deductions.



Pay Periods

You will receive a one-half (1/2) bi-weekly pay this Thursday, August 31, 2006. You will receive another one-half bi-weekly pay on Friday, September 8, 2006. Your first full bi-weekly check will be on Friday, September 22, 2006.

Building Policy Committee

Teacher Empowerment in your school begins with the Building Policy Committee (BPC). It is your staff's vehicle to solve problems at the building level that are not covered by the Master Agreement, and as the contract states . . . "teacher involvement will be meaningful." This means that arbitrary decisions affecting working conditions within your building can be challenged and changed through peer consensus. An administrator must listen and respond to staff concerns. It is the faculty's committee and the principal does not have veto power over BPC decisions unless they violate school board policy.

The size of the committee is determined by election within the individual building, and it is not uncommon to have each grade level or subject area represented. The chairperson, who sets the agenda, and the secretary should be WEA members. Up to three building reps are guaranteed slots on the committee without election, but more reps may serve if they are elected. **The BPC is the staff's voice. This committee is your right.**

Conduct your elections immediately and please fax (573-7753) or call (573-7750) your committee membership into the WEA office. Other than the principal, **only WEA members are to serve on this committee.** Procedures for the BPC are outlined in Article XX of the contract.



New reading requirements for teachers

A new state law will require teachers who apply to renew a provisional certificate or apply for their initial professional education certificate after July 1, 2007, to meet a new reading requirement.

Teachers must have completed a three-credit course with appropriate field experiences in the diagnosis, remediation and differentiation of reading instruction, according to the law passed in April, 2006. The three credits must be taken during the first six years of employment as a classroom teacher and may be part of the 18 credits already required in a planned program for those seeking a professional education certificate. The three credits are in addition to the three semester hours of reading for secondary teachers and six semester hours of reading for elementary teachers that are required for the issuance of a provisional certificate.

Teachers who receive their professional education certificate before July 1, 2007, are exempt from the reading mandate. However, teachers who renew a provisional certificate before July 1, 2007, will need to meet this new reading requirement prior to applying for the professional education certificate.

Conference at Amway Grand Hotel

Please be aware of the following district policy when planning your conferences this year:

Effective immediately, no reimbursement requests will be approved for expenses incurred at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This policy directive shall apply to hotel accommodations, meal expenses, parking fees and any other costs incurred by the employee in connection with attendance at education conferences hosted by the Amway.

Expenses paid to professional organizations that sponsor the conference are acceptable and will be paid directly or through reimbursements requests. Also, housing expenses incurred at other hotels in the area will be reimbursed in the usual manner.