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Maureen Mohr

Career and Tech Ed

Rob Libenson

Member At-Large

N/A

Focal Point Editor

Mike Miller

In an effort to publish the good things our members are doing we encourage you to email articles to: wtafocalpoint@gmail.com

Union By Law Changes

The by law committee, chaired by Mike Murphy, recommended a number of changes to the organization by laws. At the general membership meeting on Tuesday, May 14 the membership voted to accept some of the proposed and in-session amended by laws. Not all amendments have been passed, and there will be a special meeting held on May 28 to complete this task.

Major changes that are now in effect include the following:

- In order to be inclusive with all units of our membership, we are now known as the **Weymouth Educators' Association (WEA)**.
- Cash paying members must pay full dues by December 1st. Failure to adhere to this shall result in termination of membership and employment.
- The Building Representatives shall, on a monthly basis, hold informational question and answer sessions with the staff at their school buildings.
- The Executive Board will now consist of the officers and any members from the following locations; 1 Pre-K, 1 Primary, 1 Middle, 1 High School, 1 Special Education, 1 CTE, 1 Unit D, and 1 member at large.
- The term of the above 8 people will be for two years.

What has not yet been approved:

- All by law revisions following Article XI, Section 3 still need approval.
- Article VI, Section 5. concerning voting by proxy, will also be revisited.

If you did not receive a copy of the revisions, or wish to receive a copy before the next meeting, please contact Mary Lou Buell or Mike Murphy before May 28.

Continue Advocating for our Schools!

The fate of the school budget is in the hands of the mayor and town council, who will be making their final decisions in the next few weeks. Continued advocacy in the form of letters to council members, and encouraging friends and neighbors to do the same is still needed and encouraged. It is working, we just need to continue our efforts!

BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES

- One Unit A rep. for every 10 teachers in the building is the allotment in order for you to have full representation.
- Unit D should have one representative per building.
- You will receive a stipend for each meeting you attend.
- It's an opportunity to meet others from within the district.
- Keep up-to-date on topics which affect your career, your job, and your livelihood.
- **Still have plenty of spots available. Email Mary Lou if interested.**
- Meetings are held at the Weymouth High School at 3:45, and take place the third Tuesday of every month (unless vacation interferes).
- Meetings will resume in the fall and the general membership is invited to attend. The first 10 minutes of each meeting are reserved for general membership concerns.
- Members of the representative council will be published prior to each meeting. These lists will be updated as needed.

If members have questions or concerns, please contact your building representative, the WTA office: 781-337-9700- or email: weymouthteachers@yahoo.com

Dues Information

By: Val Devlin

At the May general membership meeting, a dues increase was approved for the next school year. All increases are for the entire school year and divided over 21 checks.

- Unit A/B Full Time: \$2.00/year
- Unit A/B Part Time: \$1.00/year
- Unit D Full Time: 50 cents/year
- Unit D Half time: 25 cents/year



Shout Outs!

Millie Ficarra who made *MTA Today*. Check out the article of the Spring edition on page 9, or at massteacher.org/news.

Mary Lou Buell for her presentation to the Annual Town Meeting on May 13. You can see the video at <http://wetc.weymouth.tv/online-shows/>. She speaks at about 180 minutes into the video.

What's On Your Mind



Q: My principal asked me about the performance of one of the ESPs. Am I allowed to give information to my principal concerning their performance.

A: Education Support Personal (ESPs) are Unit D members of the Weymouth Teachers Association. Members of Unit A should not be evaluating or providing information to supervisors about members of Unit D. This includes information about their classroom performance as well as relationships with their students, unless it is an immediate safety concern..

You should let your principal know that you do not feel comfortable doing this, and if it continues to be a problem contact a union representative.

ESP Conference

By: Maureen Mohr

The ESP Conference was held in Falmouth on April 5th and 6th. We were warmly greeted upon arrival and attended our first of many informational session. Dinner that night was fantastic and during our meal we had several informative speakers. We had a full day on Saturday, with two other informative sessions. Our conference ended with lunch, several other speakers, and several great raffles. The whole weekend was so informative and we felt so respected. This conference is something I would consider going to next year.

Teacher Education and Professional Standards

Are you planning to change salary lanes?

- Complete an application.
- Send the original to Leah Shapiro Ciliberto at Wessagusset.
- Meet the deadlines for submission.
- Do NOT send transcripts or grade reports.
- Applications that arrive after the deadline will not be reviewed until the next TEPS meeting.

Deadlines

June 5



Applications are available in each building and on the district and WTA websites.

Educator Memorial Service

The Educator Memorial Service for the Weymouth School Community will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2013 at 3:45 p.m. in the Richard B. Dwyer Memorial Courtyard at the Chapman Middle School. If anyone you know should be added to the Necrology, please email Diane Webster as soon as possible.

Evaluation Committee Update

The committee has reviewed every section of the evaluation tool and will be bargaining suggestions with a team representing the school committee, led by Dr. Salim and two administrators.

Once the joint team agrees to the language, it will need to be ratified by the membership. Watch for more to come over the summer and into the fall.



Left: Ducklings call the courtyard home.



Right: Courtyard in the Springtime.

Weingarten rights guarantee an employee the right to union representation during an interview by the employer. If the interview could in any way lead to the employee being disciplined or terminated, or affect his or her working conditions, he or she should respectfully request that a union representative or officer be present at the meeting. If representation is requested and denied, the employee may choose not to answer any questions.

WTA Office- Gerri Rennie is our Office Manager Suite 23 33 Union St. South Weymouth, MA 02190



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Email WTA to be added to our group site!!



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