



FOCAL POINT

Education—the key to success!

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Have something to add?!?

In an effort to publish the good things our members are doing we encourage you to email articles to:

weafocalpoint@gmail.com

PARCC Updates

In recent months there have been discussions and votes surrounding standardized testing. Please visit our website (weymoutheducators.weebly.com) to read the updates about PARCC, the MTA's stance on standardized testing, and calls for action surrounding children and assessment. Below is an excerpt from the PARCC update on May 21, 2015.

On May 20, 2015 the PARCC governing board voted to:

- **Reduce the testing time for students** by about 90 minutes overall (60 minutes in mathematics; 30 minutes in English language arts) and create more uniformity of test unit times.
- **Consolidate the two testing windows** in mathematics and English language arts/literacy (which includes reading and writing) into one.
- The single testing window will simplify administration of the test for states and schools that experienced challenges with scheduling two testing windows.
- The testing window will be up to 30 days and will extend from roughly the 75% mark to the 90% mark of the school year. Most schools will complete testing in one to two weeks during that window.
- **Reduce the number of test units** by two or three for all students.

Building Representatives

Representative Council held their last meeting in May. Meetings will continue in the fall. If you are interested in becoming more active in the WEA, please consider joining us next year. Talk to a current Representative or a member of the WEA Executive Board.

Teacher Education and Professional Standards

Are you planning to change salary lanes?

- Complete an application.
- Send the original to Liana Lucchesi at Nash
- 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:

Watch for updates online in September.

Applications are available in each building and on the district website under Human Resources.

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.

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

Keep up to date at:
www.weymoutheducators.weebly.com

Members Participate in MTA Annual Meeting and ESP Conference

Annual Meeting Report

By: Kristina Keefe

Why do I pay union dues? The union doesn't do anything for me. We have to keep doing more and more. Why doesn't the union fight it? This is ridiculous.

These are things I have heard more times than I can count. I decided to become a more active member by attending the MTS annual meeting in Boston in May. Being with over 1,000 of my peers from all over the state was exciting and enlightening. I saw that I and "we" are the union. The union is not a "they." I realized the amazing amount of things the MTA has done and is doing for all the public schools in our state.

At the meeting there were many issues to deal with. I can't list all of what was done but I will say that anyone and everyone was welcome to ask questions and give opinions on all of what the MTA does. These two days were empowering. I am proud to be

My View of the MTA Convention

By: Marty McIsacc

I attended the MTA annual meeting of delegates on May 8 and 9. While I was there, I was able to hold extensive conversations with MTA personnel who represent union concerns as varied as charter schools to high stakes testing. Moreover I was also able to speak with the MTA State Senate liaison. He was able to provide me with considerable direction in regards to an upcoming and local mayoral contest. In addition to all of this, I was able to participate and vote on a full slate of items as they were brought before the delegate body.

Union Democracy—The MTA Convention

By: Tom Healy

First of all, I am very grateful to all the WEA members for the opportunity to be chosen to attend the MTA convention as a plenary delegate. It was an amazing day, though at times, it was somewhat frustrating. As a delegate, the Weymouth delegation was able to vote for or against resolutions that were recommended or not recommended by the Executive Board of the MTA. Some of the MTA's recommended resolutions were passed by the delegates and some were not. The most amazing aspect of this process is that the delegates, the union members, voted on what was to become or not become policy for the MTA. The members define the union! And isn't that the way it really is?!

Unit D View of the MTA Annual Meeting

By: Joni Cederholm

I was a "newbie." My first experience attending the MTA Annual Meeting of Delegates held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston in May. I arrived with an open mind and ready to take it all in.

There were over 1,000 delegates from across the state. A sea of educators as diverse as our classrooms. Educators, new, seasoned, retired, some attending for the first time, while others were veterans of many years. Pre-K all the way through higher education. I was pleased to know there were other Paras/ESPs in attendance.

I soon found myself fully involved with the issues, policies, and concerns taking part in the voting process and listening to key note speakers. I came in as a "newbie" but very quickly became a part of the whole process. Learning how policies are made, discussed, and voted on was a new experience for me at the state level. I would encourage others who are interested to let your Executive Board members know next year that you would like to partake in this process. I hope to attend again in the future. If you are interested in more of what happened this year, visit the MTS website at www.massteacher.org

An Update on the ESP Conference

By: Maureen Mohr

Once a year there is an ESP conference down on the Cape. Four Paraprofessionals for Weymouth attended this conference. There are many great classes to choose from, along with food and raffles that were donated by the MTA. Saturday's classes were so numerous that it was hard to choose which ones you want to take. During the conference we had an opportunity to meet many other ESPs from across the state, and get their perspective and insight on issues, especially regarding contracts. The conference is always worth going to.

***Editors note: ESP stands for Educational Support Personnel, and are the Unit D members of our union.*

Contact us: Office Manager - Gerri Rennie. Weymouth Educators' Assa, Suite 23, 33 Union St., South Weymouth, MA 02190

781-337-9700



www.weymoutheducators.weebly.com



weymoutheducators@outlook.com

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