



Educational Association of Worcester

Vol. 5, October 2018



Greetings!

MTA ALL IN: We are still ALL IN too!

Please get out and VOTE on November 6, 2018!

We are encouraging our members to vote YES on all three ballot questions.

I am pleased to report greater numbers of members using “ten-minute meetings”. These informational meeting are held before or after the school day.

We continue to meet with administration to monitor test results regarding PCB levels at Doherty and Burncoat. So far, the air quality is acceptable according to EPA guidelines. However the EAW continues to state that if EPA best practices were followed, specifically damp mopping and damp wiping, there is no doubt that results would be even better.

Also, start time for members is 10 minutes before the start of the day for students. If your administrator is requiring you to be at school earlier than the 10 minutes, for duties, etc., this is a violation of your contract and you need to contact the EAW.

Keep your SchoolSpring account updated. It is critical that information be accurate and current in your account. This process will enable you to apply for after-school positions and summer school positions more efficiently. The Human Resource office uses SchoolSpring for determining eligibility for interviews, etc.

We are experiencing little or no change in membership here at the EAW following the JANUS decision. Our members remain loyal to themselves and each other despite the fact that public sector unions are no longer allowed to charge “agency fee” to employees of the Worcester Public Schools that choose to not join.

We are continuing to negotiate contracts for the Bus Drivers and Monitors. We are seeking a livable wage increase, good and affordable health insurance coverage for members and their families and improved working conditions. We feel these are “reasonable asks”.

Yours in solidarity,
Roger

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- **Evaluation Bargaining Team: Update: The district is ready, we need our team! Please contact us ASAP to be on the team!**
ASK: Be part of this important work (even if you have signed up in the past please do so again).
- **DELEGATE TRAININGS/Workshops:** November 8th and December 5th. Two sessions: 2:15-3:30 and 3:45-5:00 at the EAW.
- **Lesson Plans:** Class Action grievance filed last year and *denied at Superintendent and School Committee levels. We filed for arbitration. The arbitration was put in abeyance since the major issues at the time were around secondary (Math) lesson plans. The district resolved the secondary (Math) issue, and now the issues are with elementary lesson plan(s) and changes.
Clarification: * While the grievance was denied, the response states: **“Teacher lesson plans will not be longer than 2 pages as listed in the Side Letter. The content of the lesson plans will include the components listed in the Side Letter”**. The denial was specific to the use of a specific template and states:
“I am supporting current and past practice of developing and implementing templates without a vote”.
- **IA Monday Meetings:** The new requirement for Monday Meetings is **6 hours for the year**. We have reached out to IA’s for much needed information, and have had very little response.
ASK: Please respond to Roger and Mark’s information request sent to IA delegates! There is a form here for you to fill in tonight. For schools without IA representation here, the form will be going to the school. If/when you do receive a schedule; please forward it to Mark at mbaranoff@masteacher.org
- **We are constantly working to update our database. Please make a copy of your school sign-in sheet and get it to us so that we know where members are in the district. We continue to need updated emails as well!**



Reminders:

- **Elementary Recess:** According to page 64 of the [Worcester Public Schools Handbook 2018-2019](#), there must be a minimum of 30 minutes recess over the course of the day. The time before school would not count towards this total.
- **IA Teachpoint:** We have been told that all IA’s will have a Teachpoint accounts by mid-October. **To access your Teachpoint and receive needed information you must log in to your new WPS email.** Please contact us with any questions.
 - **Bus Driver/Monitor Bargaining:** We are at the table now.
ASK: We may need you to take action with the drivers and monitors. Stay tuned.
 - **Strategic Planning Study Group(s):** As a follow-up to the WPS Strategic Plan, the EAW has been invited to participate in phase two: the Strategic Plan Implementation.
ASK: The Strategic Plan will influence the work of all educators. We need voices on these groups. Contact the EAW with interest.
 - **Sick Days:** A class Action Grievance has been filed and a Request for Information. The grievance is being held in abeyance until we have complete information.