



# Messenger

A newsletter published for the education employees of the Howard-Suamico School District

Volume 9, Number 8

Message from the President *by Beverly Rittenhouse, HSEA President*

March 19, 2009

March always seems to be a long month as we continue to struggle with the snow and cold this far north. Therefore, it is actually a joy to be planning spring and summer activities. The light at the end of the tunnel draws near!

## Howard-Suamico Education Association

Bev Rittenhouse  
President

Dave Wickert  
Vice President

Bev Schacht  
Treasurer

Candice Perz  
Secretary

## Calendar of Events

### March 30

Board of Education meeting  
6 p.m., BP Forum Room

### April 9

Executive Board meeting  
4 p.m., UNE Office

### April 14

Board of Education meeting  
6 p.m., BP Forum Room

Please be aware of the following:

- Your building reps will be holding a 10-minute meeting to ask for some ways that the PLC initiative might be improved. We would like you to share some ideas in developing a list of five suggestions from each building. We will share these suggestions with Dr. LaCroix during our April meeting.
- The General Assembly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, beginning at 4 p.m. This year it was decided to combine the meeting with the end of the year HSEA social. Free food and soda will be offered plus an open bar between 4:30-5:30 (beer only). Please plan on attending and socializing with other staff members. During the General Assembly meeting we will vote for new HSEA officers and changes to our HSEA constitution.
- Members will be getting an invitation for our HSEA Retirement dinner which will be held on Tuesday, May 5. You are encouraged to attend this event to honor those who have given so much to our profession/district.
- WEAC is holding their 2009 Representative Assembly meeting April 24-26 at the LaCrosse Center, LaCrosse, WI. We are currently sending two delegates to this event to represent our association, but we have more open slots available. Please contact me if you'd like to be a delegate.
- The UNE Representative Assembly and dinner will be held on May 20 at Rock Garden/Comfort Suites. This event will begin at 5:30 p.m. We can send 15 delegates and we still have open seats. Please let me know if you'd like to be a delegate for this event while enjoying a free meal!

As always, thank you for the high standards of excellence which is a constant reflection of your commitment to our students. I hope that all of you have a wonderful Spring Break, whether you continue to gaze at dwindling piles of snow or cast your eyes upon the surf of a beach. Regardless of the scene, take a deep breath and relax; April and May are busy months!



# HSEA Executive Board Meeting—March 12, 2009

## Newsletter Summary

## Are You a YouTube Star?

*From neatoday express*

### Treasurer's Report

- There were no expenses to be paid this month.
- Checking: \$1,120.45; Savings: \$16,945.16.

### President's Report

- No update on whether or not the BP teacher who teaches marketing will work with us on public relations.
- SPED task force update.
- Upcoming meeting with elementary principals to discuss: new process of communication and the breakfast program. Bev will attend.
- WEAC Representative Assembly: April 24 and 25 in Lacrosse. Two members plan to attend, possibly a third.
- NEA convention in San Diego on July 1-6. See Bev if interested.
- Next week is the meeting with Dr. LaCroix. Items to be discussed are:
  - Taking personal time to attend a student family funeral.
  - Work release time for HSEA officers.
  - PLC evaluations/modifications for next school year.
  - My Learning Plan lag in processing/approval.
- UNE Representative Assembly: May 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Rock Garden. We can have 15 people represent HSEA; currently we have only five signed up. Let Bev know if you can attend ASAP.

### Committee Reports

#### **Negotiations**

- Early Retirement Committee met in March. Next meeting will be in April.

#### **Social**

- General Assembly meeting on May 7 will be at Townline. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

### Building Reports

#### **Bay Port:**

- Question regarding the necessity of spring conferences.
- Clarification on whether or not you can use comp time if you do not have any or very few scheduled conferences.

#### **Bay View:**

- Grade 8 could be losing a teacher which could make class sizes over 30.
- Concern with advanced classes being forced on teachers; added prep.
- Unknown placement for next year regarding grade level, houses, advanced classes.

**Bay Harbor, Forest Glen, Howard, Lineville, Meadowbrook, Suamico:**  
No report.

*Candice Perz*  
*HSEA Secretary*

Welcome to the age of YouTube, where anyone may be armed with a cell phone camera and all the world's a stage, including your classroom. Students across the country are busy recording their teachers and posting the videos to YouTube. A search on the site for "angry teacher" returns dozens of videos taken surreptitiously in the classroom.

Sometimes students post videos to expose bully teachers. But in other cases, it's impossible to discern whether the videos are of actual misconduct or if they are regrettable moments of a teacher pushed to the breaking point. Sometimes, educators are provoked by students trying desperately to get their teachers to explode just so they can capture the episode and upload it to the Web for anyone to see.

When you're in the classroom, consider that you may very well be taped without your knowledge. Be on your toes at all times. Always try to present information in a neutral manner, allow students to speak their piece, and do not persuade them to a particular point of view. Never overreact to a student challenging your authority, and don't ever try to personally or physically punish a student.

*Read the entire article at:*  
<http://www.nea.org/home/11001.htm>