



# Messenger

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

Volume 9, Number 9

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

April 17, 2009

Howard-Suamico  
Education Association

Bev Rittenhouse  
President

Dave Wickert  
Vice President

Bev Schacht  
Treasurer

Candice Perz  
Secretary

April certainly doesn't seem like we are on the downward side of the 2008-2009 school year. I participate in constant conversations and I'm amazed at summer calendars filling up with district staff development trainings, grad classes, in-services, data retreat days, curriculum meetings, weeks of summer school, building planning meetings, grade level team gathering, days working in your classroom, etc. It is extremely evident that teachers **do work all year long**. Please don't hesitate to mention this the next time you hear someone say, "You have your summers off."

I would like to encourage everyone to make sure their four hours of in-service are completed by the end of May. Also, it has come to light that the procedure for getting credit for the in-service is dependent upon you completing the follow-up reflection. **This reflection component needs to be completed by ALL MEMBERS who took the in-service in order for the class to then be processed through as credit for everyone.** Please fill out the reflection piece ASAP after you have participated. This is for the benefit of all the other members who attended with you, too.

In May, at our General Assembly meeting, we will be voting on changes to our constitution. Members will be given copies of these changes by the first week in May. Please read over the changes and attend the May 7 meeting to vote on the changes and also for new officers. I would encourage members who want to move our district forward in a positive direction that promotes collaboration, to become involved within the HSEA. We have made great strides and members with positive visions of what can be possible as we make changes to reflect a new model of partnership are asked to be active in this process.

Please read inside this newsletter for reminders and up-dates on numerous topics. I hope everyone had a wonderful break and that the next month is filled with all the wonderful blessings that come with Spring.

## Calendar of Events

April 27

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

May 5

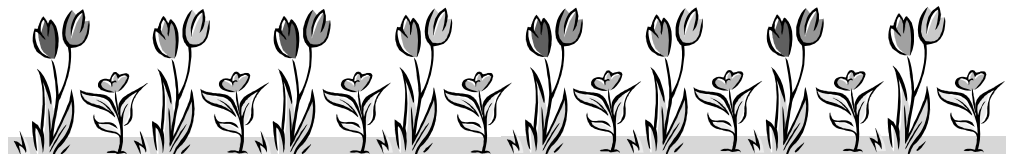
HSEA Retirement dinner  
Townline

May 7

General Assembly meeting  
4 p.m., Townline

May 11

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



# HSEA Executive Board Meeting—April 9, 2009

## Newsletter Summary

### Treasurer's Report

- Expenses paid: Snacks for February and March meetings, UNE dinner for member who signed up but did not attend, and copies.
- Checking: \$1,140.45; Savings: \$1,6945.16
- The scholarship fund will have an additional \$80 this year as Mike Prez is donating his HSEA gift (\$80 to scholarship and \$80 to Giving Tree).
- Bev asked for suggestions for budget increases for next year. Proposal made (Bierowski) and seconded (Sachs) to increase meeting attendance pay from \$15 to \$20. Motion carried.

### President's Report

- Sue Britz attended meeting to present information and receive approval from the board to pursue arbitration. The grievance is centered on handling retirement benefits once a person turns 65. Motion made to pursue arbitration (Wickert) and seconded (Schacht). Motion carried.
- Upcoming meeting (early May) with elementary principals to discuss: new process of communication and the breakfast program. Bev will attend.
- WEAC Representative Assembly is April 24 and 25 in LaCrosse. Two members plan to attend and possibly a third.
- Items discussed during monthly meeting with Dr. LaCroix:
  - ✓ Taking personal time to attend a student's family funeral.
  - ✓ Work release time for HSEA officers.
  - ✓ PLC evaluations, modifications for next year.
  - ✓ Lag in processing/approval for My Learning plan.
  - ✓ These issues will be further discussed at the meeting which is set for the last Tuesday of April.
- UNE Representative Assembly is May 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Rock Garden. We need 15 people and have only 5 signed up. Let Bev know if you can attend ASAP.
- Question as to whether or not we can email the Retirement dinner invitation to members. The answer: Yes, as long as we don't request a response through email. Members will need to print invite on their computer and send response to Kathy. Look for General Assembly invites to be sent through email as well.
- Question as to who keeps the Retiree membership up to date? Judy Wood will be contacted to discuss this further.

### Committee Reports

#### **Negotiations**

- Early Retirement Committee: Gave district proposal in February. Met in March to receive district plan; it was very vague. Asked for a more detailed plan. Meeting on April 21; hoping district will provide specifics.
- Contract negotiations will not start until a decision is reached on early retirement since this decision will affect certain aspects of our current contract.

#### **Social**

- General Assembly meeting on May 7 at Townline. Beverages and snacks will be offered. Look for email invite and attendance contest information.

#### **Grievance**

- Current grievance will be sent to Superintendent in two weeks.

### Building Reports

#### **Bay Port:**

- Questions on status of negotiations.

#### **Bay View:**

- Family and Consumer Science teaching position was posted as "Financial Literacy Teacher." Wondering if FACS will no longer be offered. We feel life skills are very important; how and why was this decision made?
- Report card timelines: quarter ended on April 3 and grades were due April 6 at 10 a.m. Report cards were sent home on April 8. Why the short turnaround? Not consistent with other schools in district. What about students who were absent and their missing work? Also, if a teacher did not work at home over the weekend, they only had a three hour turnaround time!
- Next year's schedule; mini preps eliminated. Questions centered on supervision with a 190 minute block: bathroom breaks, office visit by teachers. Passing time

not figured in and schedule can be set by house, so could there be kids in the hall at all times?

- World language change: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be an every other day class. Amount of content covered will be less so second year at BP will have to accommodate this; what if a student takes first year at BP? They will be farther ahead of BV students. Figure this is the district's attempt to save money, stretch teachers, and not hire. District says it wants to move world language down to the elementary level but it is essentially cutting the program at Bay View.

#### **Forest Glen**

- Math program concerns: at the beginning of the year noticed district benchmarks were not covered by program. We were told NOT TO SUPPLEMENT. Now are told to "cover what you can" and are being required to attend meetings to fix benchmark issue. Message from beginning of year to now is different. Kindergarten has 14 benchmarks not covered by material.

#### **Bay Harbor**

- Would like to revisit K-4 district discipline plan; not working/not effective.
- Discipline issues being handled by half-time school counselors, not principal.
- Cold classrooms: teachers have to wear coats in class, even with doors closed.

**Howard, Lineville, Meadowbrook, and Suamico:** No report.

#### **Other**

- HSEA constitution copies to be made for each member so they can review changes before vote at the General Assembly.
- HSEA executive officer election: need finalized list of participants so a ballot can be constructed.
- New teacher presentation: discussion with district mentors has lead to a list of items that need to be covered since these areas have the most questions. Mentors have PPT we can use for this. They are also willing to help.
- New teacher list and gifts; need numbers and names from mentors.

*Candice Perz, HSEA Secretary*

#### **Dry Erasers**

*From Susan Ganske, a literacy support teacher in Wisconsin:*

Used dryer sheets work great for erasing white boards. When they get dirty, just toss them out. They are much better than buying expensive dry erase board erasers!

#### **Senate committee backs bill making prep time a mandatory subject of bargaining**

The Senate Committee on Labor, Elections and Urban Affairs voted 3-2 Tuesday, along party lines, in favor of Senate Bill 67, making preparation time a mandatory subject of collective bargaining.

Teachers, especially elementary teachers, may want to contact their legislators and ask them to support this bill. Read more at:

[http://www.weac.org/News\\_and\\_Publications.aspx](http://www.weac.org/News_and_Publications.aspx)

## **HSEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**

**Thursday, May 7**

**4 p.m.**

**Townline**