



Messenger

<http://www.weac.org/HSEA>

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

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December 18, 2009

Howard-Suamico Education Association

Jason Berna
President

Dave Wickert
Vice President

Bev Schacht
Treasurer

Candice Perz
Secretary

Calendar of Events

January 7
Executive Board meeting
4 p.m., UNE Office

January 11 and 25
Board of Education meeting
5:30 p.m., BP Forum Room

January 12
General Assembly meeting
4 p.m., BP PAC

Message from the President *by Jason Berna, HSEA President*

Over the past month, your union representatives have been working very hard for you. We are currently working on our contract proposal (a painstaking task that has continuously been in need of altering do to several new pieces of legislation that have been recently passed at both the Federal and State government levels). Most of you have already heard about (or read) some of the details of the District's proposal. One of the philosophies that I have discussed since I have become Association President is "transparency." I want you to know what is going on. As an educator, you know better than anyone that "knowledge is power." Because of this, I encourage every member to attend our next EXTREMELY important General Assembly meeting. Your Negotiations team will be presenting contract negotiation information on January 12 at the Bay Port PAC starting at 4 p.m.. Because of the number of new teachers that have been hired over the past ten years, this contract will have a significant effect on the remainder of your careers. Please take full advantage of this opportunity.

In my November letter, I had asked for more people to get involved and I am pleased to report that dozens of people have started to take on a more active role. We are still looking for at least one person from each school to represent/communicate information from the Action Committee. Please see your building rep if you are interested, or directly contact Jenny Johnston jenjohn19@gmail.com or Justin Nelson nelson.justing@gmail.com.

Your Vice President, Dave Wickert, has been working with each of the building principals to get information out on how to use our insurance more wisely. We need to continue to police our own spending, thus saving us money. Each building will be hearing this information during one of your next faculty meetings. Please be sure to attend and ask questions if you have them.

The last item of extreme importance for our Association is people who are taking it upon themselves to negotiate items for themselves and several others in the same or a similar position without the remainder of the Association's knowledge is unacceptable. If you are in this type of a situation, please seek a representatives help. Do not agree to anything because you are creating a precedence that has the ability to undermine our Association and threaten members rights down the road. We must be vigilant in our efforts to protecting our rights, both now and in the future. Remember that we would not need an Association if management wanted to truly treat us the way we deserve to be treated as professionals.

I hope and pray that all of you have a wonderful holiday season. Happy and safe travels.

Jason

HSEA Executive Board Meeting—December 10, 2009 Newsletter Summary

Treasurer's Report

- Total expenses for November/December: \$366.39. Total for year: \$8,152.50.
- Checking: \$909.28. Savings: \$17,161.

President's Report

- December meeting with Damian will be on December 16.
- Continuing to receive paperwork from the district.
- Update on the new committees:
- Numbers committee: has four members but looking for one person to spearhead this committee.
- Members Action committee: has three members but looking for past members to rejoin and possibly lead.
- Insurance committee: Are in the process of setting up meetings at every building's staff meetings with Denise Hutchinson. Also putting together a Powerpoint for our general assembly meeting on January 12.
- General Assembly Meeting, January 12, 4 p.m. in the Bay Port Auditorium (PAC). We will be discussing the negotiations progress and possible job action activity.
- December 14 meeting with board members: What questions do we need to raise? Jason will be attending.
- Reminder to keep discussions had at our Executive Board meetings private, unless it is something that has been put into the newsletter.

Committee Reports

Legislative/Political Action/Public Relations

- Continuing the compiling of email addresses of members.
- T-shirts are in-progress.
- Looking for members to join our political action committee. Anyone interested please see your building reps or Justin Nelson and Jenny Johnston at Bay Port.

Members' Rights

- An issue at the high school; waiting for further advice/information.
- Looking for information/update on the retirement arbitration; who is the contact person?

Negotiations

- Discussed calendar proposal.
- Team meeting December 15.
- District/Team meeting December 17.
- Political Action committee looking for one person per building.

Retired Liaison

- Discussed retirement grievance. Would like member who filed grievance to present information and updates to Executive Board. Contact will be made.

Social

- General Assembly meeting on January 12, 4 p.m., at the Bay Port PAC.
- May 4 Retirement Dinner at Townline.
- May 13 General Assembly meeting at Townline.

Newsletter, Scholarship, Webpage: No report.

Building Reports:

Bay Port:

- Online courses are conflicting with courses offered on site.
- If online courses are good enough for our students, why are they not good enough for our teachers to use towards graduate degree programs? Right now, only three out of our six credits used for lane advancement can be online. What about graduate programs in our area of expertise that can only be attended online? Clarification needed.

Forest Glen:

- Concerned with next year's proposed calendar; loss of work day before the start of school and open house the day before school starts.

Bay Harbor, Bay View, Howard, Lineville, Meadowbrook, Suamico:

- No report.

*Candice Perz
HSEA Secretary*