

FESPA

Recap of 2007-2008

This school year we managed to revive our union by updating our constitution and bylaws, electing officers, and selecting building representatives for each building.

We worked with Human Resources to resolve several issues including contract enforcement concerns, individual member issues, and staff development. We are also looking at implementing the AESOP program for support staff members. This is the program the teachers currently use when they need a substitute. We came to an agreement for House of Correction support staff to be allowed to work on snow days if the teachers are also there, since their students are not sent or kept home in the event of snow. At the recommendation of both Council 10 and the district, members carrying WEA health insurance voted to change from the current plan to the WEA Trust Preferred Plan which generated a huge savings for the district. These savings will in turn be passed along to all support staff employees. The insurance change was effective April 1st and the savings will be seen on July paychecks.

Our executive board members crafted a chain of command procedure to be used in the event of a possible grievance. Members will receive a copy of this document at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year in their Council 10 folder along with various other back to school items.

An exciting new development in the works is our very own website on the WEAC site. Barb Buss of Pleasant View is working hard with Sue Sarbacher from WEAC to get that up and running. The website will contain information such as upcoming events, meeting dates, officer and building representative information, and much more. We hope to be online by the start of the 2008-2009 school year.

This coming fall, our bargaining team will begin preparing to negotiate the next contract. Negotiations start in the spring of 2009. If you would like to join the bargaining team, or have an idea/suggestion/ request for the team, please contact Barb Buss at Pleasant View in September.

This summer several board members will be attending the WEAC Summer Academy to be trained in bargaining techniques and how to handle grievances. President Barb Gallagher will also be working with Human Resources and Special Services on staff development.

We look forward to another productive school year and hope to increase member involvement through ongoing learning and communication.

The FESPA Executive Board wishes you and your family a happy and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you again in September.

