

## WEA TALKING POINTS

February 14, 2008

1. Wauwatosa has 14 teachers who hold a National Board Certification. The fourth highest in the state. Only three much larger districts (Milwaukee, Madison, and Manitowoc) have more. Unlike other districts around the state, teachers in Wauwatosa holding the National Board Certification receive no monetary compensation for this achievement.
2. Over 320 Wauwatosa teachers have one or more Master's or Doctorate degrees.
3. During the 1992-93 school year, the most highly educated, experienced Wauwatosa teacher received a salary of \$53,296 which ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among 41 Milwaukee area school Districts. In 2006-2007, Wauwatosa teachers had dropped to 28<sup>th</sup> among the same group (with 3 districts not settled). The salary was \$66,217. Over a 15 year period, wage rates for the most highly educated and experienced staff in Wauwatosa had increased an average of 1.3% each year.
4. Among the 11 School Districts comprising the two athletic conferences in which Wauwatosa is a part, the District had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest Reserve Fund balance of 23.3% in 2005-2006. The statewide average is 16.5%. Previously, the District has had the highest reserve fund among the group. At the conclusion of the 2006-2007 school year, the District added 3.5 million dollars to this reserve fund (Source: Unaudited DPI report)
5. Among these same 11 School Districts, Wauwatosa has the lowest property tax levy rate (6.80 for 2005-2006). The statewide average is 8.40, and among the 11 School Districts the range is from 8.31 to 10.89. This is the most recent available data and the source is the Dept. of Public Instruction.

6. The levy rate for Wauwatosa Schools in 2005-2006 is 2.8% less than it was in 1993-1994.
7. Over the past five contract terms covering a 10 year period, Wauwatosa teachers have reduced their level of insurance benefits in every contract.
8. Over the same time period, while the cost of health insurance has not decreased, the District has shifted the cost more and more to the employees.
9. Wauwatosa teachers support the restructuring of the salary schedule to make the District a little more comparable to other Districts.
10. Wauwatosa was once a “Destination District” for families who wanted to live in a quality school district. Today it is becoming a training ground for bright new teachers who leave the District after a few years—often going to neighboring Districts where the long-term career benefits exceed those in Wauwatosa.
11. The Wauwatosa Education Association believes Wauwatosa residents deserve a school system that attracts and retains quality teachers. Let’s not be a training camp for other Districts.