

The Bridgeline

**Bridgeport Education
Association**

Volume I Issue I
September 2007

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Associate Editors, Mark Improta and Carmella Lorusso

President's Message

As we enter into a new school year, I am asking you to be watchful for the one-way accountability mind set. Bridgeport teachers work hard and have their students' best interests at the forefront of their priorities. The new State Commissioner of Education, Dr. Mark K. McQuillan, replacing Betty Sternberg, has created a new department of accountability. Unfortunately, I suspect that the only accountability will be student test scores. Commissioner McQuillan is already promoting exit exams for high school students. Until the federal, state, and city governments fully fund education in Bridgeport, progress will be retarded. We are continuing to make progress and consistently do better than the other urbans that have significantly more dollars as evidenced by the BROAD Prize nomination. So please remember, that we as teachers are to educate the whole child and that accountability goes in all directions.

Mary-Beth Lang
BEA President

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Mary-Beth Lang

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Negotiations Update

The team who will represent Bridgeport teachers in the upcoming negotiations are:

Sara Batalla (step, elementary); **Katie Boland** (step, high school); **Woody Fitzgerald** (max, high school); **Tiffany Ladson-Lang** (step, middle school); **Carmella Lorusso** (max, middle school); **Maria Nocerino** (Co-Chair, max, high school); **Gary Peluchette** (Co-Chair, max, elementary/middle school); **Kathie Sochacki** (max, elementary/middle); **Victoria White** (step, elementary)

This team, along with the BEA Executive Board and Personnel Policies Committee, has spent significant time over the summer doing the research needed for proposals that will be presented to the BOE team.

Because health insurance is of major concern, the Executive Board has authorized the hiring of *Health Benefit Solutions LLC*. This consultant company will work with the team to protect and improve insurance benefits. CEA will pay 50% of the cost of hiring the insurance consultant which could total \$45,000. The BOE has hired Joe Fields as their insurance consultant.

Important dates include:

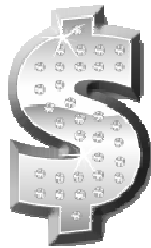
Negotiations begin:	July 16, 2007
Mediation begins:	September 4, 2007
Arbitration begins:	September 29, 2007
Arbitration ends:	November 10, 2007

Building Delegates' Elections

In September, every school is responsible for electing **BEA Delegates** to represent them at the monthly meetings. At the same time, a representative from each school should be elected to attend the **Superintendent/Teacher Roundtable** which takes place four times a year. A packet of information has been sent to one of the current BEA Delegates. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please notify the Delegate in your building. Dates for delegates' meetings are included in the packet with additional information. Any full member is eligible.

\$1 Per Pupil

Per contract language 7.8.6, every classroom teacher is allotted \$1 per student to spend for their classroom. Request requisitions from your principal.



Leave of Absence

Anyone requesting a Leave of Absence is now being asked to make an appointment and meet with the Executive Director of Human Resources, Carole Pannozzo. If you are asked to meet with Ms. Pannozzo to discuss your LOA request, BEA advises that you take a BEA representative with you.

Highly Qualified

If you have not received your 'highly qualified' paperwork, please call the BEA grievance office.

Please note:

- * The 'highly qualified' status applies only to classroom teachers who teach a core subject at this time.
- * The timeline for highly qualified paperwork for Special Education teachers has been extended by the State until June 2008. Special Education teachers will receive highly qualified paperwork by the end of the school year.
- * If you were hired for the year 06-07 or later, you **had** to be 'highly qualified' or you could not be hired. You filled out the survey at the time you were hired and will not receive any other paperwork.



Class Sizes

Please be aware of class size limits.

K/1 split limit 20

K-1 limit 25 (report overage ASAP)

2-12 limit 30 (after October 1)

Classes with more than 3 over limit will be immediately expedited. All others will be handled after October 1st.

Subfinder

In an effort to improve the substitute problem, the district has bought *Subfinder*. It is **im-
perative** that every teacher registers. You should have received a letter at your home during the summer with the information about how to register and how to use the system. If you did not receive a letter and need the information, please contact Human Resources at 576-7305. Now when a teacher is absent, instead of calling the tape, teachers will notify *Subfinder* by phone or online. Teachers can also monitor their attendance using *Subfinder*.

6th Class for High School

Any high school teacher who volunteers for a 6th class must immediately notify Jennifer Silves at 378-2101 or jennifers@cea.org. She will facilitate the compensation package.

New Teachers– Save the Date

Steven Brines, New Teacher Chair, welcomes all the new teachers to attend the BEA New Teachers' Social at Vazzy's on September 27th at 3:30. Come and enjoy good food and the company of other new teachers. You will receive an invitation in the school mail. Be sure to RSVP in order to save a spot.

CEA Retirement Workshop

In Bridgeport

Monday, November 19, 2007

Registration from 3:15 to 3:30 pm

Workshop: 3:30 to 6:00

AQUACULTURE SCHOOL

RSVP to Julie at the BEA office 416-0055 or
jkaffen@beaunion.org

**Bridgeport Education
Association**

3543 Main Street
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Julie Kaffen
Administrative Assistant

Phone: 203-416-0055
Fax: 203-416-0066



We're on the web!
www.beaunion.org

Bridgeline Editors

Tiffany Ladson-Lang,
Public Relations Chair

Mark, Improta, Assoc. Editor

Carmella Lorusso, Assoc. Editor

UnumProvident Disability Insurance

BEA full members are entitled to disability insurance that will provide money to the members if they are hurt and cannot work. To receive a disability booklet outlining the coverage, or to receive the UnumProvident privacy policy, please contact Kathy Flaherty, BEA Disability Chair, at kflaherty@bridgeportedu.net.

Mortgage Program

Washington Mutual has a teacher mortgage program that offers a number of advantages to teachers. For more information or a complimentary mortgage analysis, please call Carole Cook at 203-341-2807 or toll free at 877-850-0585 or by email at carole.cook@wamu.net.

DonorsChoose

Need money for a field trip?? Science equipment?? New rug?? Bridgeport Public Schools has been selected for participation in a program that matches public school teachers' requests with donors. The program is part of a nonprofit charity. Donors log onto the DonorsChoose website to pick from a list of requests submitted by teachers. Log onto www.DonorsChoose.org to submit your request!

Computer Conference

In Hartford on October 23, The Connecticut Educators' Computer Association and the Connecticut Educational Media Association will hold a conference that will showcase the best educational practices for computer using educators. To learn more or to register, log onto www.ceca-ct.org.

Mon., Sept. 10, 2007 BOE Meeting Aquaculture, 7:00 p.m.

We Need You There!!

Mon., Sept. 24, 2007 BOE Meeting Aquaculture, 7:00 p.m.

Tues., Sept. 25, 2007 Delegates' Mtg. Central High F105, 3:30 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 27, 2007 New Teachers' Social Vazzy's Rest., 3:30-5:30 p.m.