

Bridgeline

Bridgeport Education Association

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March/April 2009

Associate Editor, Mark Improta

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*I'm up in air,
waiting to
see where
everything
lands.*

President's Message

Dear BEA Members:

There's a soon to be released movie that sums up the state of finances for the Board of Education. The movie is entitled "Up". That's where things seem to be right now, up in the air. As the BOE prepares its budget for 2009-2010, the City of Bridgeport has flat funded the BOE. This means no 1.9% increase that the BOE requested to keep things status quo for next year. The 1.9% translates to 4.5 million dollars. This loss of funds could mean teacher layoffs if the state does not increase funding to Bridgeport schools.

The state has not settled a budget as of yet, so that piece of the picture is not in place.

What we can do is contact our state legislators and urge them to support the Democratic budget proposal. Whether it's a letter, a phone

call or an e mail, your voice needs to be heard by our elected officials.

Usually by this time of the year, thirty to forty teachers have applied for retirement. At this point we have seventeen teachers who have submitted their intent to retire. The BEA did send an early retirement proposal to the BOE, however we have not received any decision whatsoever on this issue.

I wish that I could send more concrete information to our members, but just like you, I'm up in air, waiting to see where everything lands.

Gary Peluchette

Know Your Professional Rights & Responsibilities

Carmella Lorusso, Chairperson
Lynne Todisco
Woody Fitzgerald
Ann Langley, CEA Urban Intern

It is evaluation time, please remember you have 24 hours to review the evaluation before signing and returning it to your administrator.

Make sure that you have a copy of your evaluation in your hand immediately upon signing it. **DO NOT** rely on the administrator to give you a copy at a later date.

If you disagree with the evaluation, you must check “**I disagree**” and sign it within the 24 hours. This gives you the opportunity to later determine what course of

action you may take.

If the **noticeable concern** box is checked on your evaluation, it is necessary for you to sign *I disagree*, and you **MUST** immediately call Sharon Pivirotto, Evaluation Mediator, who provides assistance to teachers that disagree with their evaluations. Her phone number is 275-1046.

Sick Days/ Personal Days

When you schedule a *medical well appointment*, you can use a personal day. When you schedule a *medical procedure or test*, you should use a sick day.

Do not hesitate to call the BEA office (416-0055) with questions or concerns.



Color yourself green

Most crayons are made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource that takes years to biodegrade. Opt for soy-based crayons instead, like Prang-brand. Other school supplies can be switched, too. Consider this: If your school uses 20 cases of recycled paper instead of regular, it'll save 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.

Superintendent/Teacher Round Table

March 13, 2009 - 26 Schools Represented

- Questions to the Superintendent about projected school closings and how teachers would be reallocated followed by explanation of budget woes by Superintendent (reassignment procedures in place if needed)
- Distribution of science kits
- Need for greater parental involvement for more positive school climate
- Concern of evaluative consequences for a school visited shortly after CMTs (when all wall displays had to be removed)
- Summer school money, schedule and implications if schools close (too soon to tell)
- Use of stimulus money (can't supplant)
- Reduction of OMNI services at Central
- Responsibility of cafeterias (building issue)
- In-school suspension law delayed until 7/09 due to State budget—may have further delays
- Updating of Code of Discipline—BEA will be brought in at later date
- Administrative directives at some elementary schools
- Testing schedule—BEA meeting with Administration in May
- Student cell phone policy
- Para furloughs cause injuries to teachers and safety of students
- Mayor's desire to negotiate Association contract without BOE
- Next year's calendar include 5 shortened student days for School Improvement data teams
- Superintendent directing Principals to address patterns of excess absences, use evaluation process to regain urgency about our work
- Uniforms for next year from any store (no vendors) PACs can handle hand-me-downs
- Need for flexibility by Administration for successful mentoring
- Raise money for BOE by tag sale of discarded school items
- Facility issues impede best climate for CMTs



NEA/CEA Delegate Election

BEA NEA/RA election results:

MaryBeth Lang	604
Tiffany Ladson-Lang	549
Delphina Pinto	488
Ana Batista	461
Victoria White	418
Carmella Lorusso	410
Patrice Lungren	384
Usha Menon	371
Lynne Todisco	344
Marie Petitti (alternate)	333
Sherran Davis (alternate)	267
Vidyotma Gupta (alternate)	203

MaryBeth Lang
 Carmella Lorusso
 Patrice Lundgren
 Usha Menon
 Wendy Milson
 Marie Petitti
 Delphina Pinto
 Lynne Todisco
 Victoria White
 Ann Langley
 Mary Psarras
 Unni Menon
 Tito Planas
 Gary DeBrizzi
 Maria Santiago
 Mia Dimbo
 Sharisma Simmons

*Be careful to
 leave your sons
 well
 instructed rather
 than rich,
 for the hopes of
 the instructed are
 better
 than the wealth
 of the ignorant.
 Epictetus*

CEA/RA Delegates:

Ana Batista
 Amy Broad
 Sherran Davis
 Woody Fitzgerald
 Kathleen Flaherty
 Vidyotma Gupta
 Tiffany Ladson-Lang

Congratulations!

Ann Brennan, Election Chair

Interested in Political Issues?

If you would like to become more informed on political issues, contact: **Cheryl Bochet** or **Rob Traber**

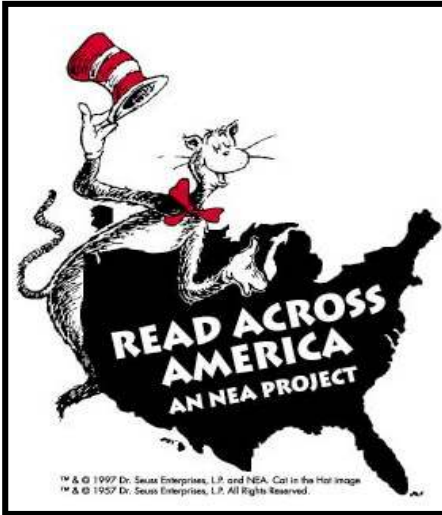
Also, let us know if you would be interested in having monthly get-togethers where we could share information through speakers, small group gatherings, etc.

S.E.P.P.S

On March 24, 2009 Jennifer Silvas and members of the S.E.P.P.S. committee, attended an informal meeting with the Board of Education and members of the Labor board concerning the unfair labor practice that was previously filed against Clarity. The labor board listened to our concerns and that of the board. Sadly, the Labor Board ruled against our request. However, we are appealing their decision. A survey was developed to help our appeal that will be coming out soon on Survey Monkey via email. This survey will be sent to all Special Education Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, Social Workers, and other support personal staff. Kindly complete this quick and easy survey as soon as possible so that we can use this information to support our appeal.

Gail Iassogna

Bridgeport Education Association



The Cats in the Hat Sarah Stephson and Kathy Flaherty visited over a dozen schools in the district on Friday, March 27th, to celebrate "Read Across America". They read to many visited classes books written by Dr. Seuss. The students were very excited about the visits. However, not all the schools in the district were visited because of time restraints. Hopefully, next year all the schools will get a chance for a visit from Cat in the Hat, a great way to celebrate reading!

Dates to Remember

Please join us for the 4th Annual

WINE TASTING

Friday, May 15, 2009

Crowne Plaza Hotel

50 Morgan St, Hartford, CT

\$25.00 per ticket

Contact Ana Batista 203-416-0055

Tickets may also be purchased at door.

BEA RETIREMENT PARTY

June 2, 2009, 3:30-7:00

Testo's, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606

(203) 367-4298

Contact BEA 203-416-0055

Cost— \$36.00/person

Buffet Style, Cash Bar

Officers

Gary Peluchette
President

Victoria White
Vice-President

Maria Nocerino
Secondary Vice-President

Tiffany Ladson-Lang
Elementary Vice-President

Herminio Planas
Treasurer

Kathleen Flaherty
Secretary



Julie Kaffen
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