

Our Children, Our Teachers, Our Future—Together we have a Voice

Negotiations Continue

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First let me say a tremendous THANK YOU to all of those who have attended negotiation sessions. It makes such a difference in the energy level in the room as well as the results at the table. In the last session Medical Insurance was signed off as status quo, this came in contrast to the last session where we were told that four options were being considered. Your team is working hard to insure that we do not take steps backwards. Because of the budget crisis, other systems are considering cutting insurance benefits. As a general statement negotiations are going well. This does not mean however that agreement is met without compromise and belief in our desire to attain the best contract for the teachers of Sumner County. Please keep up your support and attendance – YOU make the difference!

In my February remarks to the Board I asked them to consider several criteria as they decide on policy changes and voting responses. I asked them to consider how their decisions and/or policy changes would impact education, students, teacher morale, and the overall learning and working environment in Sumner County. Sadly I feel as if my remarks fell on deaf ears. The decisions regarding renaming of schools, associated cost, and most of all the proposed policy on “Board Disruptions” certainly did not take into account the suggested criterion. The expense of renaming schools, particularly in these economic times defies logic as to how that improves the educational process in Sumner County. The proposed policy on “Board Disruptions” flies in the face of the First Amendment. It is my sincere hope that common sense and the words of the voters will be cause for contemplation and reconsideration of these issues.

Our Spring Membership Campaign will begin on April 1. We are interested in your suggestions to make this campaign a success. As always, you may contact the office at 452-6834 or sceasn@bellsouth.net or at sceapresident@bellsouth.net. Your input concerning the system and the Association is always welcomed and appreciated. SCEA continually wants to know, “What can we do to make your job easier and make SCEA more effective for YOU.”

Mary

Volunteers Needed for the Scholarship Committee

Each year SCEA offers the opportunity for receiving a Scholarship to students who choose Education as their field of study. Applications have been sent to the High Schools and the process of choosing recipients is at hand. If you would like to volunteer approximately 3 hours of one afternoon on this committee, please contact SCEA at 452-6834 or sceasn@bellsouth.net or at sceapresident@bellsouth.net.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Session #3 February 19, 2009 4:30-6:40 P.M.

Insurance proposals were exchanged & they BOTH turned out to be the same as our current contract. Since there were **no proposed changes**, the insurance article was signed at 4:15.

The only two other proposals exchanged were the Fringe Benefits & the Working Conditions articles. Both were put aside until next session.

Retirement age requirements (for those who do not have 30 years or more of verified TCRS teaching credit) & pay for unused sick days for both regular retirement & the retirement incentive were the points of difference in the Fringe Benefits article.

SCEA proposed changing regular retirement age requirements to 55 years of age & 20 years of verified teaching credit in TCRS in both the regular & the incentive sections while the Board wants the age requirements to remain at 60 years for regular retirement & 57 years for the incentive with 20 years of verified teaching experience.

The Board's team proposed leaving the pay for unused sick days as it is on the current contract (\$15/day for retirement & \$15/day for the first 100 days, \$25/day for 101-200 days, & \$35/day for days above 200 for the incentive) while SCEA's team proposed \$45/day for any unused sick days for both the regular retirement & the incentive.

The Working Conditions proposals were basically the same as the current contract with the exception of two new sections added to SCEA's proposal titled Terms of Employment & Personnel Files.

Terms of Employment addresses work expectations such as length of teacher day, bus & car duty, meetings, duty free lunch, and planning time. Personnel Files addresses maintenance of, access to, & use of personnel files.

Next Session: March 12th - Fringe Benefits, Working conditions, & Leaves of Absence

The last four negotiation dates are: March 12th March 26th April 2nd April 16th April 28th
All sessions 4:00-8:00 in the Board Meeting Room

Your SCEA Team Appreciates your Attendance. **YOU COUNT !!!**

Schedule for Televised Board Meetings Announced

The following is the current broadcast schedule for Sumner County Board of Education meetings. Meetings are televised on the local Community Access Cable Channel in the listed communities.

HENDERSONVILLE—10 a.m. Sun, Mon, Wed. & Fri. following the County Commission

GALLATIN—Monday: 6:30 p.m. until the end of recorded meeting

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. until the end of recorded meeting

PORTLAND - 4th Tuesday each month: 4 p.m. – repeats until 8 a.m. Wednesday

WHITE HOUSE—Every Wednesday 8 a.m. until 8 a.m. Thursday on Channel 9

*Tim Brewer - David A. Brown - Beth Cox - Will A. Duncan - Mike Fussell - Glen Gregory - Danny Hale
Ben Harris - Don Long - Rob Wheeler - Ted Wise*

Legislative Forum in Sumner County

The TEA Annual Legislative Forum was held on February 5, 2009. In attendance were State Senator Diane Black, State Representatives Susan Lynn, Mike McDonald and Debra Maggert. We would like to thank our state officials for taking the time to answer questions from the TEA and SCEA.

All of the guests were asked if they would support teacher rights such as tenure and professional negotiations. Rep. McDonald stated that he definitely would but Sen. Black said she couldn't allow herself to be placed in a box, especially when there might be something better for teachers in the future.

The question of retirement benefits and salary was broached and Sen. Black said that she believed all state employees should be treated equally as far as retirement and other benefits are concerned. The legislators were then made aware of the fact that state employees receive 55% of their pay in retirement, while teachers only receive 48%. All of the legislators were asked if we could count on their support if any punitive bill directed solely at weakening TEA is defeated. Diane Black commented about all the crazy resolutions floating around the NEA.

Senator Black pointed out that all teachers should want good role models for their children and so how could we support homosexuals in the classroom.

The hour spent with our legislators was very informative. More teachers should avail themselves of the opportunity to really get to know their representatives and to find out exactly where they stand on educational issues.
~Georgette Reed~

Retirement Banquet

As we begin to think about the end of the school term, it's important to remember that some of our ranks will be reaching their final graduation....retirement! With that in mind, Patti Adams, Station Camp Elementary School building representative, will be chairing a committee to plan the Spring Retirement Banquet. We need volunteers. We will take any amount of time or talent that you are willing to give to honor these selfless, long-enduring educators. You may contact Patti at padams0108@comcast.net.

SCEA Meetings

Board meeting & study session: March 3, 6:00PM

Negotiations 4-8PM
March 12, 4-8 PM
March 26, 4-8 PM

Executive Board Meetings
March 16, 4:15 SCEA

Board of Education:
March 17, 6PM

Don't forget Executive Committee member Princess Moss will be joining us when we honor our retirees. Mrs. Moss was a teacher in Virginia and has served in numerous leadership roles as a VEA member, state president of VEA, and as a member of the Virginia State Education Council.

The School Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Board of Education at 6:00 p.m.
The County Commission meets the 3rd Monday of every month at the Administration Building at 7:00 p.m.

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ELDA Testing ELL Testing Read Across America	3	4	5	6 TEA Board of Directors Meeting	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Change	9	10	11	12 End 1st nine weeks	13 Inservice Day #2	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 TEA Symposium Gatlinburg	21 TEA Symposium
22	23	24	25	26 FTA Convention, Nashville	27 FTA Convention, Nashville	28



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Executive Board

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Vickie Mangrum, IPD
Baker Ring, Legislative
Dr. Beth Rickert, Negotiations
Georgette Reed, S-SPACE Chair
Patti Adams, Human Relations

*Educating Our Children,
Engaging Our Parents,
Empowering Our Schools*

Be on the Lookout!

The Central Office will be conducting a survey concerning the pay day options for next year. Be looking for this document and make sure you turn it on time to have your voice heard!

Guide to Grammar and Writing

If you have a grammar or writing question, you can probably find the answer here.

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>

KinderArt, Art Lessons for K-12

This site boasts over 1000 free art lesson plans, covering art topics from architecture to drama, and folk art to sculpture.

<http://www.kinderart.com/index.html>

Essentials of Music

This site for basic information about classical music includes overviews of history Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Twentieth Century. Brief biographies of nearly 70 composers; and a glossary containing 200 definitions with numerous musical examples. RealAudio is required for sound clips.

<http://www.essentialsofmusic.com/>

Quotes worth noting

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

[Robert M. Hutchins](#)

Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.

[Pete Seeger](#)