

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

Legislative Update

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January was a frustrating and worrisome month for educators across the state due to the legislation associated with the **Race to The Top** Grant. Now that TEA and the states Executive branch of government have finalized the bill, it is important for you to know that without the assistance of TEA the final results would have been much harsher for educators. That is not to say all professional employees agree 100% with the legislative changes, but we all realize being an educator is a profession ruled by politics. As Sumner County educators we have and will continue to produce outstanding standardized test scores and contribute to the growth of the student as a whole being. Students are much more than a test scores in the eyes of an educator. After being in close contact all last week with various members of the legislature as well as spending two days *observing* the sessions, the effect politics and decisions made by those not in the classroom became more apparent and gave a very disappointing view of how the system works. There are some good points to the legislation but it is unfortunate that such important laws were passed in less than a week's time. It appeared the driving force and main focus was to receive the grant money.

Also SCEA must thank Board member Beth Cox for her work on this legislation, for her support, time, and efforts on behalf of the professional educators of Sumner County. Mrs. Cox took the time to read and question the proposed legislation and then attended an overview presented by Commissioner of Education Tim Webb. Additionally she daily and diligently contacted legislators with pertinent information and questions. Mrs. Cox is an exceptional Board member who epitomizes the concept of representation for all.

Representative Mike McDonald deserves the gratitude of SCEA and its members. Representative McDonald, on his own initiative, called Sumner County administrators to find out their perspective on the proposed legislation. Inadvertently, Representative McDonald learned of the system wide teacher meeting on the proposed legislation. He attended this meeting and listened to us and heard what the teachers were saying. To my knowledge no other representative or Senator took the time to call their educational constituents to attain their perspective. Representative McDonald took his constituents concerns to heart and voted "no" to the proposed legislation. As a result the Republican Party sent a news release branding the eight Representatives who voted no as Democrats that "turned their back on Tennessee's children, teachers, and administrators when they voted against legislation aimed at putting our education back on track." As an educator I appreciate Representative McDonald for actually doing his job and voting according to his constituency. Representatives are elected to represent their constituents, not to represent a strictly political point of view.

Mary

System Wide Meetings Scheduled to Address New Legislation

SCEA will host three system wide meetings to explain and clarify the final Race to the Top legislation. These legislative changes take effect July 1, 2011 so it is imperative that as professionals we are informed and aware as to how this will impact the 2010- 2011 school year. As a professional courtesy SCEA will open these meetings to non-members as well as members. We hope to see many of you there.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, February 9, 4:30 – 5:30 at Station Camp High School

Tuesday, February 16, 4:30 – 5:30 at Portland High School

Tuesday, February 23, 4:30 – 5:30 at Gallatin High School

A Reminder from S-PACE

Are you registered to vote? This August six Board of Education seats are up for reelection as well as the entire County Commission. As you are well aware 99% of what we can and cannot do in a classroom as well as our salary is legislated.

It is time to take control of our destiny and get out and vote. If you would like a voter registration form just email the SCEA office (sceasn@bellosuth.net) and one will be sent to you by courier. You may also get a form at the Voters' Registrar office in Gallatin.

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*



Dr. Seuss's Birthday, March 2, 2010

NEA and TEA are asking SCEA to join hands with our local school system PreK Coordinators and teachers to celebrate Tennessee's PreKindergarten Program on Dr. Seuss' Birthday, March 2, 2010. Please go to www.teateachers.org, the special events section, to find a complete listing of classroom, school-wide, parental, and community activities based on the book The Little Engine That Could, by Watty Piper.



Legislative Forum Update

Due to a snow day being called the Legislative Forum scheduled had to be cancelled. SCEA is now in the process of rescheduling the forum with your elected Senators and Representatives. Watch for the upcoming announcement.

SCEA Meetings

Please see the calendar on page 4 for this information this month.

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.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Board Study Session, 6:30 Central Office	3	4	5	6
7	8 Progress Reports	9 Legislation Regs. Meeting 4:15-5:30 SCHS	10	11 Legislative Forum Time & Place TBA	12	13
14	15	16 Legislation Regs. Meeting 4:15-5:30 PHS Board Meeting 6:00-Cent. Office	17	18	19 Negotiation Session 4:30	20
21	22 Executive Bd. Meeting @SCEA	23 Legislation Regs. Meeting 4:15-5:30 GHS	24	25 AR Meeting SCHS 4:15	26	27
28	<i>Educating Our Children, Engaging Our Parents, Empowering Our Schools</i>					



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Executive Board

Mary Pappas, President
Kali Shady, Secretary
Jenny Kenes, Treasurer
Sharon Walker, Immediate Past Pres.

Committee Chairpersons

Lois Finney, Membership
Karen Jarrett, Public Relations
Gloria Lloyd, PR&R
Vickie Mangrum, IPD
Baker Ring, Legislative
Dr. Beth Rickert, Negotiations
Georgette Reed, S-PACE Chair
Patti Adams & Kim Holmes, Human Relations
Alzenia Walls, Jackie Johnson, Min. Affairs

CLARIFICATION

The System Wide SCEA meeting hosted by Board Member Beth Cox and SCEA president Mary Pappas was advertised as a meeting for all teachers of Sumner County. Senators and Representatives were not sent an announcement concerning this meeting.

“The ballot is mightier than the bullet.”

