

AEA FOCUS

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October 2008

President's Message

Now that we have two months under our belts, I hope that despite our turbulent start, the ongoing issues related to lesson plan structure and the extra 15 minutes, you have been able to settle in somewhat. We have done numerous things to draw attention to our concerns on the aforementioned topics – some very public and, as a result, some behind the scenes. We still firmly believe that there is a large discrepancy between what was negotiated and what the district has mandated on both topics.

While I understand that some of you are not comfortable with the manner in which we have addressed these issues let me assure you that many less aggressive methods were attempted prior to these actions. For those of you that believe that we have not been aggressive enough, please understand that there are many factors that effect what steps are taken and when. Both the Executive Committee and I are proceeding as effectively as possible and are taking all variables into account.

While we concede that the ASD has the right to “administer the business of the school” under law, we did successfully negotiate a voice regarding the committees that shape district-wide initiatives. We have not been given that voice. We negotiated the extra 15 minutes to provide a buffer between the arrival of staff and the arrival of students for safety reasons. The negotiated extra time was not intended to involve duties or student contact time; it was *specifically discussed that it would not* at the table.

We remain vigilant in our efforts to right these wrongs, and will continue to do so. The Executive Committee, our PSEA UniServ and I want to thank you all for the support you have shown from the numerous e-mails, signatures on grievances, and your attendance at the various organized events. The more unity you show, the more effect we can have. Remember that the converse is also true. Our work is far from being done and we ask for more and continued support from you, the membership, as we work toward resolving these issues.

Please remember to Vote!

Melvin

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FOCUS IS A PUBLICATION OF.....

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This publication is an official publication of Allentown Education Association and is affiliated with Pennsylvania State Education Association and the National Education Association.

ACT 48 Credits

Please email Melvin regarding any ASD Act 48 dates that have not been recorded on the PDE website. Please do this as individuals not as a group or building.

AEA Calendar

Nov 5 – Exec Committee Meeting

Nov 12 – Faculty Rep Mtg @ Union Terrace

Nov 27-Dec 1 – Thanksgiving Holiday

Heads Up:

Act 48- The ACT 48 process has changed effective this school year. Please adhere to the following guidelines to make sure that you receive the proper credit.

- 1) Preregister on CPE tracker. Be sure to register no later than 2 days prior to the scheduled professional development.
- 2) Make sure you sign in at the professional development.
- 3) Within 2 weeks of the professional development, you **MUST** fill out the Professional Education Implementation and Documentation form, get it signed by your principal, and send it to Regina Finlayson.

Also, keep checking your ACT 48 credits on the PDE website.

Grievances- Be sure to submit to Melvin the signed grievances on lesson plans and 15 minutes, if you didn't already.

Direct Deposit- If you are having any problems with direct deposit please contact Kim in the payroll department @ 484-765-4020 as well as Melvin.

Traveling Teachers- If you travel between buildings and are still having a problem with your 30 minute duty free lunch and prep, be sure to call Melvin @ 610-432-7329.

Optivision- You have a choice of vision plans. The choices are the traditional vision reimbursement plan or Optivision, which is a discount plan. The district will pay for one of these choices. Optivision is not accepted by all vision providers so make sure you check with your provider or the Optivision website (www.e-nva.com). If you stay with the traditional vision reimbursement plan, you can still choose to pay for Optivision on your own (it is \$30 for 2 years for a family card). There will be 2 open enrollment periods to sign up for Optivision to be paid for by the district. The 1st open enrollment will be in November and coverage will begin in January. The 2nd open enrollment will be in May and coverage will begin in July.

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4—PLEASE VOTE!!!!

DEADLINES:

Professional Development Leave – The deadline for taking this leave during 2nd semester of the 2008-09 school year is **November 1**.