

WTU Update

Volume 24, Issue 3

December, 2015

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



As you know by now, the school committee has refused the continuation of the mediation process and is taking us to interest arbitration. We went through this with them in the past. It lasted approximately two years, they never finished presenting their case (they go first) and it did not produce a contract. We ended up going back to do the only thing that produces a contract: NEGOTIATING! I thank the entire membership as you support our efforts to ensure a fair contract. I want to thank all of the members that have come to school committee meetings, and those who spoke at the microphone. We need to stand together in this difficult time. We encourage you to support each other and participate in our quest for a fair and equitable contract. Solidarity is what made our Union strong and it is only through solidarity that we will be able to achieve our goals. Be proud to be a teacher, as you all know the importance of your work but also remember that you deserve and demand to be treated accordingly for the important work that you do each and every day.

REMINDER:

Informational picketing will be held on December 1st from 2:15 - 4:00 p.m. at the Ad. Bldg (34 Warwick Lake Avenue).

CONTRACT UPDATE

Below is an outline of what has transpired with regard to our contract.

Negotiations

On December 14, 2014, the Union sent a letter to the Chairwoman of the School Committee and the Director of Labor requesting negotiations. The School Committee hired Andrew Henneous as their attorney. We had six (6) negotiations sessions. Karen Bachus and Gene Nadeau attended these meetings. Jen Ahearn attended only one (1) meeting.

Mediation

We met five (5) times for 3+ hour sessions with Mediator Ragosta. The WTU and the WSC were in attendance. Mediator Ragosta agreed to meet again on November 18th. The WSC did not respond to the mediator for over a week and then refused to meet.

Small Group Negotiation Meetings

Superintendent Thorton, Attorney Henneous, Jen Ahearn, George Landrie, James Ginolfi and Robert Casey met on October 26th and November 3rd. The WTU attempted to narrow the issues. The WSC refused to discuss to limit the issues.

Interest Arbitration

The WTU found out after the fact that the School Committee voted to go to Interest Arbitration. Attorney Henneous notified Mediator Ragosta on November 11th that the WSC would proceed to Interest Arbitration. On November 16th, the WTU received a letter by certified mail from Attorney Henneous citing a demand for Interest Arbitration.

We will continue to keep you informed.

NOTICE OF MEETING

WTU MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2015

TIME: 3:30 P.M.

PLACE: WINMAN CAFETERIA

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Secretary's Report
October 2015 Minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report
October 2015 Report
- IV. President's Report
 - A. Grievances/
Arbitrations
 - B. United Way
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
 - A. PR Campaign
 - B. Interest Arbitration
- VII. Adjournment

WTU BUILDING REP ELECTION RESULTS

At the November 18th building
reps meeting, the following
elections took place:

Elected to Executive Board

Elementary Rep:
Cynthia Bowden

Secondary Rep:
Michael Costello

Special Area Rep:
Janet Goes

Special Ed/ Services:
Meredith McSwiggan

Elected to Fair Rep Comm.

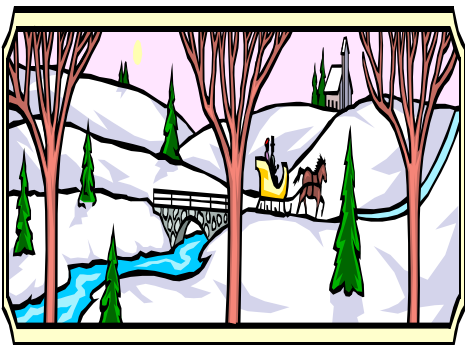
Elementary Rep:
Beverlee Powell

Secondary Rep:
Domenic Bonaminio

Special Area Rep:
Brian Flynn

Special Ed/Services:
Kim Przyszarz

Appointed-At large:
Scott Daigle



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Have you moved recently? Do you have a new telephone number? If so, it is important that you call the Union office as soon as possible. We are updating all our bargaining unit information (names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, school locations, etc.), and it is important that we have accurate information so that we can communicate with you, if necessary, by mail, e-mail and by telephone.

COASTLINE NEWS

****Managing the Holidays****

The COASTLINE staff members know that the holidays can be emotionally charged for many people. They are available to help. Here are a few suggestions to aid you in managing the holiday rush:

- * Sit back and remind yourself of what is important to you...is this a time for family togetherness, socializing, religious practice... all of the above?
- * Keep your expectations realistic. It does not have to be the "best ever."
- * Keep difficult people or relatives in proper perspective. Your holiday time with them is limited.
- * Practice assertiveness. It may be necessary to say "NO" to some invitations and requests.
- * Be aware of your stress level. Practice stress management skills, including pacing yourself by limiting parties or events and time away from home.

PLEASE NOTE



**Dec. 1st-Informational Picketing
Ad. Bldg.**

**Dec. 2nd- General Membership
Meeting-Winman**

**Dec. 8th- School Committee
Meeting**

**Dec. 9th - Executive Board
Meeting
3:30 p.m.**

**Dec. 23nd - Office Closed
Jan. 4th - Office Open**

WTU FAX NO. 739-2287 WTU PHONE NO. 739-2260

**WEBSITE:
warwickteachersunion.org**

WTU EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	George J. Landrie, Jr.
V.P. Secondary	Toni Ann Grimley
V.P. Elementary	Karen Monteiro
Secretary	Diane Chaplin
Treasurer	David Croll
Asst. Treasurer	Darlene Netcoh
Sp. Services Rep	Meredith McSwiggan
Sec. Rep	Michael Costello
Elem. Rep	Cindy Bowden
Itinerant Rep	Janet Goes

WTU Update is a publication of the Warwick Teachers Union, Local 915, AFT, RIFTHP, AFL-CIO