

# WTU Update

Volume 25, Issue 8

April 2017

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



### Negotiations/Mediation

As I have previously reported, negotiations/mediation sessions have resumed with Vincent Ragosta as the mediator and the mayor as a participant. We met in March; the next meeting is in April.

### Interest Arbitration

On January 24, the hearings for interest arbitration concluded. In February's newsletter, I explained the steps in the process. On March 22, the attorneys submitted their briefs to the neutral arbitrator. After the neutral arbitrator reads the briefs, he will convene the panel, which includes the two other arbitrators, one partial to the WTU and one partial to the WSC. After the panel discusses the issues, the neutral arbitrator will issue his ruling. After the school committee and superintendent have wasted over a year's worth of time and an exorbitant amount of taxpayers' money, the question that one must ask is, "Are they going to be willing to accept the arbitrator's ruling?" If not, the question becomes, "Why?"

### Court Proceeding

The next court proceeding had been scheduled with Judge Rubine in the Kent County Court for March 22, 2017, but Judge Rubine was ill.

This hearing, in which the Warwick School Committee was going to argue that no grievance filed after the expiration of the contract is arbitrable, has not been rescheduled.

### Good News

First, we won a grievance arbitration. When the school department created six math interventionist positions last year and did not post them at the job fair, the union filed a grievance because the school department had violated Articles 6-1.1 and 6-1.3. During testimony, the union produced examples from past job fairs at which the school department posted newly created positions. The arbitrator ruled that these positions must be posted at the job fair.

Secondly, the administration finally agreed that elementary teachers would not be required to use STAR testing for their SLOs. Thank you to all the elementary teachers who added to the e-mail threads and provided detailed accounts of the myriad problems, including the appearance of inappropriate content on students' screens, with STAR testing during January. These accounts gave me the ammunition to finally, after a year and a half, get through to the administration.

Finally, the administration also agreed to halt, at least for the rest of this year, the use of Aspen

Gradebook for individual assignments at the elementary level. As with the STAR issue, the amount of information from elementary teachers overwhelming proved that Aspen for individual assignments does not work.

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### NOTICE OF MEETING

**DATE: MAY 3, 2017**

**TIME: 3:30 PM**

**PLACE: WINMAN JUNIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL  
CAFETERIA**

### AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. SECRETARY'S REPORT**
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT**
- IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE AFT CONVENTION**
  - B. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE RIFTHP CONVENTION**
  - C. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE PROVIDENCE CENTRAL FED. COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**
  - D. DISCUSSION OF OTHER BUSINESS**
- VII. ADJOURNMENT**