

WTU Update

Volume 25, Issue 9

May 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



On April 11, 2017, the WTU held informational picketing in front of City Hall. Despite reporting some inaccuracies, especially about our attendance, the media extensively covered our event, and we made the public aware of the issues. The following is the press release that I issued to the media:

In December 2014, the WTU first requested to begin negotiations with the WSC, which finally consented to negotiate in the summer of 2015. In the fall and with an acting superintendent, the WSC requested mediation, the parties chose Vincent Ragosta as a mediator, and the parties met numerous times during September and October. However, after Superintendent Philip Thornton was hired in October, he attended only one mediation session and then immediately filed for interest arbitration, which began in December 2015 and has not yet concluded.

In the meantime, the superintendent and WSC have filed endless motions in the courts and have brought actions to RIDE, while the parties have continued to meet in mediation, now with Vincent Ragosta and the Mayor of Warwick. To resolve this two-year dispute, the WTU first proposed last year and recently reiterated its offer to make the neutral interest arbitrator's decision binding. The WSC has not responded to this offer.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING

DATE: MAY 3, 2017

TIME: 3:30 PM

PLACE: WINMAN JUNIOR
HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM

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 / ACTION
- VII. ADJOURNMENT



Please note the following contractual provisions which are relevant at this time of the school year.

ASSIGNMENT & TRANSFER

6-1.2 By the first week in June unless the date is changed by agreement of the parties, an up-to-date list of all known vacancies, new positions and positions of suspended teachers who have not been recalled will be posted.

6-1.3 It's not too early to send your request to attend this year's Job Fair. All requests must be in writing and addressed to the WSD Human Resources Department. The deadline for requests to attend this year's Job Fair is **June 15, 2016**.

CLASS ASSIGNMENT & PROGRAM

12-25.3 No later than June 7, teachers shall receive from the immediate administrator involved:

(a) Subjects, grades and classes to be taught.

(b) All pertinent information available at that time about classes to be taught.

The taxpayers of Warwick need to know that since June 2015 they have spent approximately \$20,000 a month on the law firm Brennan, Recupero, Cascione, Scungio & McAllister, LLP for a total of hundreds of thousands of dollars; \$135,000 on interest arbitration as of December 31, 2016; thousands of dollars on mediator Ragosta; and untold tens of thousands of dollars on the Justin Martin and Associates public relations firm for the school department to attempt to put a positive spin on its actions.

After all the time and money spent on a contract renewal process that should have concluded with a successor agreement before the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement on August 31, 2015, the WSC and Superintendent Thornton should be willing to make the neutral interest arbitrator's ruling binding and focus their time, attention, and resources on rectifying the hazardous conditions that have jeopardized the safety of Warwick's students and on restoring trust to the parents, students, teachers, and the community at large.

25 WEEK CLUB

WEEK 16-Dick Dickson
Toll Gate

WEEK 17-John Livsey
Toll Gate

WEEK 18-Kathy Brennan
Pilgrim

WEEK 19-Adam Chrabaszcz
Toll Gate

WEEK 20-Mark Golec
Wyman

\$50.00 BONUS: WEEKS 16-20
Dave Waterson-Wyman

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

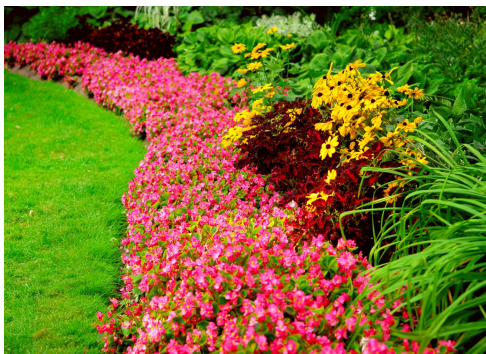
Have you moved recently? Do you have a new telephone number? If so, it is important that you call the Union office as soon as possible. We are in the process of updating all our bargaining unit information (names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, school locations, etc.). It is important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

REMINDER

All communications regarding Union business should be done by contacting the Union office at 739-2260 or through your Building Rep. Google e-mail should only be used for Warwick School Department correspondence.

EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF RHODE ISLAND

We encourage every WTU member to verify that you have a beneficiary for both your state defined benefit pension and TIAA-CREF defined contribution account.



PLEASE NOTE

May 3 2017 General Membership Meeting-Winman-3:30 p.m.

May 5, 2017 25 Wk. Club Dinner Dance-Valley Country Club

May 11, 2017 WTU Executive Bd. Meeting 3:30 p.m.-WTU Office

May 17, 2017 Building Reps Appreciation-3:30 p.m.
TBA

May 29, 2017 Memorial Day
Office Closed

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WTU PHONE NO. 739-2260

WEBSITE: warwickteachersunion.org

WTU EXECUTIVE BOARD

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