

AKRON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

BRiefs

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Governor's Plan on school funding--The Ohio 8 Coalition, made up of the Superintendents and union presidents of the largest Ohio districts, are meeting in Columbus this week with Governor Strickland about his school budget proposal. They will also be discussing how the President's stimulus package will affect districts and legislative strategy.

Lay-Off Situation-- The lay off situation remains unclear at this point in time. Like so many other districts, Akron will be suspending the contracts of some teachers this summer. Uncertainly over how many teachers' contracts, however, remains. Understandably, this is creating much frustration and anxiety for those who may be affected. The number of contracts the district will suspend is determined by several factors, such as enrollment and teacher retirements. Firm numbers for both of these factors will not be known until later in the spring. HR's efforts to accurately predict staffing is complicated by the closing of four schools, and in turn how many teachers will be needed to staff the schools that will be receiving students. Akron has not hired many teachers—especially elementary—over the past several years.

Contract Extension-- As anticipated, the Board has asked bargaining units to consider extending the current contract for one year. The current salary schedule would remain in place, and eligible members would get step and lane changes. Fringe benefits would remain unchanged. The negotiating team will make a recommendation to the AEA Trustees at the April meeting. Members will be advised of the recommendations and give additional information before voting. Voting will take place in the buildings before the end of April.

School Safety—Recently, we met with the Superintendent about school safety, its impact on enrollment, the building and the learning environment.

Insurance Audit—the insurance audit is currently taking place. You may blot out information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, the tax return numbers, etc. Please keep in mind that while this is an inconvenience—some members have said “intrusive”—the audit is, first, required by the School Employees Health Care Board, and, second, savings can help offset the need for drastic concessions.

Supplemental Contracts—The coaches supplemental pay situation has been resolved, and the coaches will get their pay. All members who coach are advised to familiarize themselves with needed requirements and plan well in advance to meet them. The administration is working to name coaches in advance.

Nominating Committee recommendations: the Nominating Cte, chaired by Carol Caughron, recommended a slate of candidates for this May's officer elections at the March trustee meeting, as follows: president, Bill Siegferth; vice president, Mike Rusnak; 2nd VP Secondary, Jeff Moats; 2nd VP Elementary, Ranay Hatherill; Treasurer, Janell Brown.

Plusquellic Recall—The AEA trustees voted to oppose any recall of the Mayor. Of great importance to us is the fact that Mayor Plusquellic has consistently answered the call and taken a leading role when asked to support the schools—most recently he supported the last operating levy campaigns, and the district's levy for the new buildings. Please sign and return the "We Oppose the Recall or Mayor Plusquellic" form. You do not have to be an Akron resident.

Dates, etc

- Continuing Contract status requirements completed prior to March 15, email Corrine Ricks in HR -- completed the requirements and wish C C status
- Early Retirement Announcement due Tuesday March 31
- Job sharing teams notify HR, April 1; Job share withdraw, April 20
- Intra-building transfer request, April 30
- Indian's game May 29 vs. Yankees
- Akron U Masters Cohort (take 2, pay 3 scholarships) Two meetings on May 4 at AEA 3:30 & 5:00; Also March 19 3:30 or 5:00 at Summit County Educational Service Center 420 W. Washington Ave in Cuyahoga Falls