

AKRON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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October 15, 2009

Trustees Endorse Four for Akron School Board: The AEA Board of Trustees has endorsed four candidates for the Akron school board race this November. The four are incumbent Jason Haas, Lisa Mansfield, Mexie Wilson and Bruce Alexander. The Legislative Committee recommended these candidates after interviewing all who submitted petitions for Board seats.

Gradebook Committee to Recommend Rollout: At the last meeting we reported on the district's plans to begin training sessions for a new electronic gradebook. A joint committee has been in place for some time and will make a recommendation to senior staff on how they feel the components of the new electronic gradebook should be rolled out. There are four major components to the new gradebook: Attendance, Grades, Gradebook, and Parent Portal. We will keep members posted on the committee's progress and the district's plans for introducing the gradebook and training members to use it.

HR Position Likely to be Filled Shortly: The district's new HR director is likely to be named at the next Board meeting or sometime shortly thereafter. The search for a replacement took a new twist recently, with a new candidate being interviewed after the original field was trimmed to two. More on this odd development later.

State Budget: On September 2, the Supreme Court ruled that VLT's at racetracks are subject to a popular referendum. This creates a problem for the state budget, as it included \$851 million in revenues from VLT's. The matter cannot be put to the electorate before the November 2010 general election. The \$851 million was considered as proceeds from the Ohio Lottery and was earmarked entirely for education. There are no plans at this

time to alter the state education budget, but scenarios are being considered to make-up for the shortfall. One plan is to delay the scheduled reduction in state income taxes, which coincidentally would cover almost dollar for dollar the loss of VLT income.

Negotiations: Negotiations will begin this winter/spring as provided for in the CBA. In addition to the state budget situation and the changes in school operations included in HB 1, changes at the Board in HR and how that will impact their team will affect negotiations.

Trustee Vacancies: The following seats are open on the AEA Board of Trustees: Buchtel Elementary, Ellet Elementary and Secondary, North Elementary and Secondary. Members wishing to fill these seats can call the AEA office for a petition.

