



# Wachusett Regional Ed. Association



## October 2019 Newsletter

### **Fund Our Future Update**

While the Cherish and Promise Acts did not make it intact through the legislative process, this year's state budget did include a "one time" payment to provide some relief for some communities around the state. It is a small fraction of what is needed to fully fund our public schools. There is still more work to be done and the only way we will be heard is if we stand together .

On Sept 19th, MTA President Merrie Najimy issued a statement that said, in part, "The *Student Opportunity Act*, the education funding bill released today, goes a long way toward achieving what the MTA and its allies in the Fund Our Future coalition sought — a generational investment in public education that helps every district and advances the causes of equity and justice for the districts most in need. Modeled on the MTA-backed *Promise Act*, the bill appears to fulfill the recommendations stated in the 2015 report of the Foundation Budget Review Commission."

Find out more at: [fundourfuturema.org](http://fundourfuturema.org)

### **Bargaining Summit October 26 in Framingham**

WREA will soon be entering into our next contract negotiations cycle. WREA will be needing members to get involved in this process, as all Eboard positions will be open for elections at the end of this school year. GET INVOLVED and learn about the process of bargaining at the MTA Bargaining Summit in Framingham on 10/26. Contact an Eboard member at [WREABoard@gmail.com](mailto:WREABoard@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Early Career Educators Conference**



**Mountview Middle School - Saturday, November 16th, 2019, 8-3:30**

This one-day conference for educators in their first five years is brought to members throughout the state by MTA's **New Member Committee**. Meet with fellow educators and get tips on everything from classroom management to supporting students with a wide variety of needs. Attend workshops on Professional Teacher Status, teaching students with trauma, and strategies for mindfulness and stress management. This program is offered at no cost to MTA members!

Register by following the registration link at:

<https://massteacher.org/about-the-mta/who-we-are/new-members>

### **Did you know?**

Alana Stern, WRHS, represents region 9B on the MTA Board of Directors, including Wachusett, Algonquin, Berlin, Boylston, Grafton, Mendon-Upton, Northboro, Southborough and West Boylston. **Thank you Alana** for your valuable work at the state level!

## WREA Annual Meeting Recap (June 3, 2019)

### **Memorandums of Agreement -**

MOAs are changes to the WREA Collective Bargaining Agreement that happen in between contract negotiation years. They are NOT reflected in the published contract, but members can stay up to date with changes that may affect them by visiting the MTA WREA website, <https://wachusett.massteacher.org>, under the MOA section, until the entire contract is re-negotiated, updated and re-published.

### **At this year's WREA Annual Meeting, new MOAs were presented for the following topics:**

- Remote Access Connection for a homebound student.
- Lane Change Course Approval Parameters (Article 27.E) Language added to state, "When a Masters degree requires 45 credits or beyond, a CAGS program of less than 30 credits may be approved by the Superintendent."
- Voluntary Sick Leave Bank will require 2 day contribution upon enrollment and other administrative changes (see full MOA language on MTA WREA website)
- Voluntary Furlough Day language and request form (See full MOA)

### **Delegation Approved Bylaw Changes:**

- Changes to remove HOD Chair from Term Limits Section of Bylaws - Election still applies, if more than one member is interested in the position
- Transition to electronic copies of HOD Agendas, Minutes and Eboard Reports
- Memorandums of Agreement that affect membership at large will be presented to members at WREA Annual Meeting for ratification.
- The election of the HOD Chairperson shall take place at the last HOD meeting of the year, which may include the General Membership Meeting in June.
- Remove duties from HOD Rep that now fall under the VP of membership.

### **Bylaw Proposal NOT accepted** by Annual meeting delegation:

- HOD Reps will report monthly to the HOD Chair, date(s) of any Informational WREA Building Meetings and number of people in attendance, (to provide accountability to members that expectations are met for meeting-related stipend payments).

### **Other Business:**

- 2019-20 WREA Budget will be uploaded to the MTA WREA Website
- Reminder of Officer Term Limits and upcoming elections 2020

### **Earn FREE Special Ed and ELL/SEI PDPs this Fall with MTA!**

This November, MTA is offering two FREE two-day workshops in Quincy where you'll be able to earn PDPs toward your license renewal. Workshops in Special Education and English Language Learners/Sheltered English Immersion will meet relicensure requirements in those areas. Both workshops will be held at Quincy MTA Headquarters on November 2 and 23, 9am-4pm.

*Autism, Executive Function, ADD & Pragmatic Language - Rules of Engagement (15 SpEd PDPs)*

*Creating Success with English Learner Students (15 ELL/SEI PDPs)*

### **Registration for these workshops are now open.**

Check for an email from **MTA Division of Training and Professional Learning** or  
Request more information by emailing [events@massteacher.org](mailto:events@massteacher.org)

## **CONTRACT CORNER**

### **ARTICLE 16.D - P.D. Money**

**What it says:** Recognizing the importance of professional development in maintaining a highly qualified teaching staff, the District will set aside a sum of money each fiscal year equal to two times the Masters, Step 1 salary for that year. These funds will be for the specific use by the members of the WREA to help defray the costs associated with professional development.

1. These costs may include, but are not limited to, conference expenses, school visits, course fees, travel directly associated with professional development, workshop fees, and class coverage for WREA members attending professional development.
2. WREA members who wish to avail themselves of professional development opportunities as outlined in this article may apply to the District in writing for payment up to, but not exceeding, the costs associated with such professional development, pending administrative approval. The District reserves the right to retroactively increase funding if all professional development monies have not been requested by June 1 of the school year.
3. Any monies that have not been spent during the current school year will be forfeited.
4. When possible, WREA requests for administrative approval and payment under this article must be made, in writing at least ten (10) school days prior to the opportunity and also must contain an explanation of the educational value of the request.
5. Upon completion of professional development as outlined in this article, members may be requested to share this experience in writing and/or in person with other members of the District staff.

***What it means:*** *In order to ensure that members can access a variety of professional development opportunities, members will be allotted up to \$400/school year in professional development money. On June 1, the remaining money from each school will be pooled together and members can submit for additional reimbursement from the remaining pool of money. If you already received partial reimbursement, you may request the balance owed as a new request. The WREA and Central Office sit together to review/ and equitably disperse any remaining funds for funds for additional reimbursement requests.*

### **House of Delegates Building and District Wide Rep. Openings (as of Oct. 2, 2019)**

**Please review the HOD Rep. list on the back cover of this newsletter,** and if you are interested in a **vacant position**, please contact Tracy Field Kasparian, HOD Chair, at [tracyfieldwrea@gmail.com](mailto:tracyfieldwrea@gmail.com). The fuller our roster, the better we represent and address the goals and concerns of all WREA members! A stipend is paid at the completion of the school year, for delegates' participation in monthly HOD meetings and dissemination of information to designated members.

Please use non-work emails when emailing union reps. Thank you.

**House of Delegates (as of 10/3/19)** Please use non-work emails for union reps. Thank you!

**District Wide Special Ed. (1):** Kate Andrus (CTMS) ([KPAndrus@hotmail.com](mailto:KPAndrus@hotmail.com))

**District Wide Art (1):** Suzanne Breen, (WRHS) [suzanneb.nh@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneb.nh@gmail.com)

**District Wide Music (1) : vacant**

**District Wide Phys. Ed. (1): vacant**

**Central Tree (2)** Ryan Hinson Zagami ([rhinson@worcester.edu](mailto:rhinson@worcester.edu))  
Betsy Wood ([betsy.wood226@gmail.com](mailto:betsy.wood226@gmail.com))

**Chocksett (2)** Lindsay May ([lindsaymaywrea@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaymaywrea@gmail.com))  
Bill Demarco ([demarcohistory@gmail.com](mailto:demarcohistory@gmail.com))

**Davis Hill (2)** Beth Manjarrez ([bej437@aol.com](mailto:bej437@aol.com))  
Val Austin ([austinsrus4@gmail.com](mailto:austinsrus4@gmail.com))  
Stacey Duffy (Secretary)

**Dawson (2)** Julie Marzo ([jules3181@hotmail.com](mailto:jules3181@hotmail.com))  
Liz Warner ([lizzyjaine@aol.com](mailto:lizzyjaine@aol.com))

**ECC (1)** Kayla Brank ([kbrank11@gmail.com](mailto:kbrank11@gmail.com))

**Glenwood (2)** Kyle Porter ([soksporter@comcast.net](mailto:soksporter@comcast.net))  
**1 vacancy** Jen Lee (VP Negotiations)

**Houghton (2)** Jess Wilke ([jbwilkeuph@yahoo.com](mailto:jbwilkeuph@yahoo.com))  
Donna Lapierre ([Mlapierre106@charter.net](mailto:Mlapierre106@charter.net))

**Mayo (2)** Jamie Leroy ([jamieleroywrea@gmail.com](mailto:jamieleroywrea@gmail.com))  
Jenna Tibbets ([jtibbetts51@gmail.com](mailto:jtibbetts51@gmail.com))

**Mountview (3)** Tracy Kasparian ([tracyfieldwrea@gmail.com](mailto:tracyfieldwrea@gmail.com))  
**1 vacancy** Kelley Nosel ([nosel14@charter.net](mailto:nosel14@charter.net))

**Naquag (2)** Erika Humphrey ([erickahumphrey2269@gmail.com](mailto:erickahumphrey2269@gmail.com))  
**1 vacancy** Kim McCormack (Treasurer)  
Mary Shepherd (VP Membership)

**Paxton Center (2)** Kara Bolduc ([karalbold@gmail.com](mailto:karalbold@gmail.com))  
Scott Wahlstrom [scottwahlstrom@msn.com](mailto:scottwahlstrom@msn.com)  
Megan Keller (VP Contract Maintenance)  
Heidi Lahey (President)

**Thomas Prince:** Christina Kristoff, [kristoffchristina@gmail.com](mailto:kristoffchristina@gmail.com)  
Carrie St. Pierre, [carriestpierre@gmail.com](mailto:carriestpierre@gmail.com)

**WRHS (5)** Alicia Jasiekiewicz ([alicia7368@gmail.com](mailto:alicia7368@gmail.com))  
**1 vacancy** Alana Stern ([alana.e.stern@gmail.com](mailto:alana.e.stern@gmail.com))  
Asia Snyder ([Asia.LEmerick@gmail.com](mailto:Asia.LEmerick@gmail.com))  
Ben Concannon Smith ([basmith1776@gmail.com](mailto:basmith1776@gmail.com))