



# Wachusett Regional Ed. Association



November 2019

The 2019-2020 WREA Eboard hopes you've had a productive start to the new school year!

## **SUCSESSES throughout the State and WIN!**

### **Teachers in Dedham, MA STRIKE over stalled contract negotiations!**

Teachers in Dedham voted to strike last Thursday, 10/24/19, despite the fact that MA state law prohibits strikes by public employees. The teachers said they knew the strike was illegal and were prepared to pay fines. The teachers began a second school year without a contract and decided to strike when the parties could not come to agreement around issues of healthcare, personal days, and a lack of policies related to student cell phone use and sexual harassment. School was cancelled for one day, on Friday, 10/25, before teachers and school officials struck a tentative agreement. Congratulations to our MTA brothers and sisters and all those who showed up to support them in their pursuit of improving teaching conditions and environments for educators and students!

THIS is the power of solidarity!

### **House Passes Educational Funding Bill**

The MA House of Representatives followed the Senate in passing the Student Opportunity Act thanks to a 12 month grassroots advocacy campaign by the MTA and partners in the Fund our Future coalition. When fully phased in, more than 1.5 billion dollars will be brought to public schools, with an emphasis in serving low-income students. The passage of the Student Opportunity Act by the House brings public education is a victory for students, union educators and communities who have been fighting tirelessly for equitable funding for public education throughout the state.

The next step is for the House and Senate language to proceed to

Conference Committee!

What does this mean?

From masslegalservices.org:

<https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/legislative-process-massachusetts-0>

**Conference Committee:** If there are differences between the House and Senate bills, both chambers must agree on one version; the measure can't progress to enactment until the same draft is approved by both chambers. This situation, which commonly arises with appropriations bills among others, requires the appointment of a conference committee. These are temporary bodies appointed to resolve differences in legislation between the two branches.

## All Member News

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The WREA House of Delegates unanimously approved a motion to accept an unrepresented group of employees, OT assistants, PT assistants and SLP assistants into the WREA. The group will be a separate unit, with a separate contract, negotiated by the WREA, under the MTA umbrella.</li> <li>● Welcome Aboard! Jen Tellier will be joining Linda Sasso and Kara Bolduc to fill an empty seat on the PD Committee</li> <li>● Election of officers: Spring 2020             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heidi Lahey will be terming out as our WREA president at the end of this school year. Additionally, all other Eboard positions will be up for election. Please review the WREA Bylaws for job requirements and think about whether you may like to pursue one of these seats.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3 people are needed for the election committee (\$100 stipend per person with the chair of the committee getting \$200) Contact an Eboard member if you are interested in filling an election committee role.</li> <li>● Early Career Educators Conference: November 16, 8-3:30, at Mountview Middle School. Anyone in first 5 years as an educator, contact an HOD Rep or Eboard member for more information or look online at the MTA website. Free to MTA members!</li> <li>● EMAC Conference: December 6 &amp; 7             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sheraton, Norwood</li> <li>○ Become active in addressing the impact of racial inequality in schools and communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Payroll dues deductions began the week of 10/14, at \$84.21 per pay period for employees of greater than half time and \$43.25 for half time or less &amp; will occur over next 10 payrolls.</li> </ul> |
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WREA has proposed to Central Office administration that a Working Group be formed for the purpose of discussing Literacy and Report Cards. We are hoping to assemble a widely representative group from different grade levels, K-5 and from each school throughout the district. If this interests you, we'd love to hear from you. Be part of the solution!

Contract Corner:  
 Article 27E - CAGS Program (MOA)  
 What it says:  
 The District and the WREA agree to modify the Lane Change/ Course Approval Language contained within the 2018-2021 agreement between the parties as shown below with the remainder of the section unchanged. The following sentence has been added to the end of paragraph 5:  
 When a Masters degree requires 45 credits or beyond, a CAGS Program of less than 30 credits may be approved by the superintendent.  
 What that means: In some situations, CAGS Programs that require less than 30 credits, may be approved by the superintendent in satisfying lane change requirements.

