



President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

First, I want to wish you all a peace filled winter break. As educators, we have jumped through many unexpected hoops this calendar and school year. These times leave us with warranted fear, but it is also from these challenging times that we demonstrate true humility through resilience, creativity, and perseverance. As educators, we know these skills well and how important they are for the success of our students, and in return our own success.

HYBRID MOA MEDIATION:

Since, the district has given their last best offer, we have had two mediation sessions. At our mediation session tonight they adjusted language to reflect the new synchronous hours required by DESE. We countered, they didn't like our counter, we didn't budge, they requested we meet over vacation, we said no. We are meeting Wednesday, January 6, 2021. A side note: January 6th was going to be a live town hall with Superintendent McCall and is now cancelled. I do not know at this point if it will be rescheduled.

MOVING TO HYBRID:

With the district's decision, many of us will be joining our colleagues already in the schools for the first time the week after winter break. When we return please take the following measures to mitigate the spread of COVID: please wear your mask, call out others who are not, maintain social distancing, and be aware of proper ventilation i.e. open windows. If you have a closed heating system ask before opening windows.

Staff Development/Meeting Day (i.e. our original Orientation Day) is now Monday, January 4, 2021 in calendar change as voted on by the school committee. We were assured by Superintendent McCall that this time is for members to use for the transition to the hybrid model and would not be interrupted with administrative directive from principals.



Also, at the school committee meeting, the Wednesday half days are now full days for students with Wednesday afternoons for asynchronous learning.

For the members who have contacted me about childcare challenges, I have reached out to the district and have heard nothing yet. If you reach out to Jeff Carlson in HR, cc me, presidentwrea@gmail.com. For those of you thinking about a leave of absence, Ben Concannon-Smith will answer any questions you may have (bensmithwrea@gmail.com).

HYBRID TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

Please submit any needs to the IT department through Mojo Help Desk.

FACILITIES UPDATE

The district has been working on the HVAC systems in all schools. Thank you to Carolyn Beaumier for your dedication in following up on building conditions for all who enter. We continue and will continue to advocate for all our safety concerns in the buildings through our class action grievance and conversations with the district. Here are her minutes from the last two facilities subcommittee meetings, November 16th and December 16th.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18DJEgo14Q4jHqkEJmPr8wjYHsWTSBp3RupD6GziR4ig/edit?usp=sharing>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LDbvCt1tit_9AXA6A1e1-3pSuvYSEh8o6_OJ1NGegmo/edit?usp=sharing

COMMUNITY SERVICE

WREA again will do a collection for the Wachusett Food Pantry, the fundraiser will start mid January and we will deliver for Valentine's Day. More information to follow.

Please take time for yourself, connect to those who fill your spirit, and make a wish as we turn the calendar from 2020 to 2021.



In unity,

Mary Shepherd

President WREA