



# WREA updates:

Dear Fellow Members:

**NEGOTIATIONS** - The WREA and the district returned to mediation this past Wednesday. We had a challenging six hour session and thought we were down to the last few contested issues. We had entered into mediation with WRSD's last best offer. Then the WREA amended the Hybrid MOA with agreed upon language. Simultaneously, the WRSD amended the Hybrid MOA by deleting previously agreed upon language. These changes created a greater divide between the WREA and WRSD. Yet we remain somewhat hopeful because the WREA is modifying the MOA by making minor language changes in the WRSD version hoping it will bring us back to the mediation table.

**WREA/WRSD WEEKLY MEETING** - Yesterday the WREA met with the Central Office administrators in our scheduled weekly meeting. We discussed remedies to the Safety Grievance, which included but not limited to the quality of the wipes, air purifiers, and clean protocols district wide. Masks must be worn by all staff in the building, except if you are in a room alone with the doors closed. The Ginkgo Pool Covid Test Trials were discussed without much interest on the district's part. Custodians will be trained on the use of CO2 and air flow monitors.

Also, at this meeting we spent much time discussing the **May Professional Development day**. The district has confirmed that the PD will consist of either virtual offerings and/or independent work. The deadline has been extended to February 12, 2021 to submit a Topic Request, Presenter Request, and/or a Request to Facilitate to [professional\\_development\\_committee@wrsd.net](mailto:professional_development_committee@wrsd.net). Please also refer back to the [Professional Development Newsletter](#) sent to all members this past December for additional information.

**THIS IS YOUR MONEY** - Every school year money is set aside in the WRSD budget for professional development. This year the amount available is \$108,960. As of Monday, December 21, 2020 \$95,916 remained in the account. The money is divided by school with about \$200

allocated per teacher. Since not all teachers use the money each year, teachers can request up to \$400 for professional development. Substitute teachers are also part of the cost if needed. Any money not spent by June 1st is consolidated and, at that time, WREA members may submit in writing a request for additional reimbursement of PD costs they incurred during the school year.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - The Town Hall with Superintendent Darryll McCall concerning current safety and instructional concerns has been rescheduled for next Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4 p.m. via Zoom. Please consider filling out the question collection form below by Monday, January 11th at 11 p.m. [Town Hall Question Collection](#)

Finally, the WREA will be hosting a fundraiser for the Wachusett Food Pantry from January 21, 2021 through February 4, 2021. More details will follow.

In unity,

Mary Shepherd

WREA President