









## Updates

Dear Fellow Members:

Hope you are all enjoying a little slower pace on this “real” snow day. Just a quick update on a few matters.

### **Wachusett Food Pantry:**

We are up to \$3,825! Thank you to everyone who has contributed. It is not too late to still contribute as we will be collecting through Thursday!

### **May Professional Development:**

The deadline to submit requests for virtual PD on May 10, 2021 is fast approaching. **The deadline is February 12, 2021** to submit a Topic Request, Presenter Request, and/or a Request to Facilitate. Please email any request to [professional\\_development\\_committee@wrsd.net](mailto:professional_development_committee@wrsd.net). Also, please refer back to the [Professional Development Newsletter](#) sent to all members this past December for additional information.

### **From MTA:**

MTA Union Skills Winter Workshop Series kicked off this past Saturday with the authors of the book *The Wolf at the Schoolhouse Door: The Dismantling of Public Education and the Future of Schools*. There will be several groups discussing the book around the state. I do believe this knowledge will help us in fighting for the future of public education. If you are interested in any of the unions skill sessions, here is the link: [Workshop Series](#)



MTA is taking action! Calling on State Officials to Work with Educator Unions on the Vaccine Roll-out. Consider joining the action, here is the link: [Take Action!](#)

I attended the Cancel MCAS rank and file MTA member campaign workshop on Saturday. It was very interesting to learn about the history of standardized testing and eugenics. There will be more information as I follow and meet with this group.

Another statewide campaign being developed is in regards to funding for schools at the state level. There will be so much more influence on our state legislators if we band together with other districts. We have been fighting for local funding, so the opportunity to collectively fight for state funding is a good next step.

**Extra Prep Time:**

The hour at the end of the day should be thought of as prep time. The negotiation team has fought hard to secure this needed time during hybrid teaching/learning. Our contract states that teachers will be available outside school hours to help students.

**Please be aware:**

This is a reminder to be cognizant of what you are posting on social media, especially during work hours.

**Mark your Calendars:**

We will be hosting two more Town Halls with Superintendent McCall and administrators on February 25, 2021 and April 8, 2021.



In unity,

Mary Shepherd

President WREA