



Updates . . .

Hello Fellow Members:

It has been a whirlwind kind of a week. Here are the updates.

TOWN HALL:

Mark your calendars - **Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 4:15 p.m.** is our next town hall meeting with Superintendent McCall. Questions will be focused on the K-8 return to full time in-person learning. All members, though, are welcome to attend. Once again we will divide the questions into sections: Safety, Technology, HR/Leaves/Sick Time, Instruction, and Changes in Logistics (schedule, transportation, etc). The WREA encourages members, especially from the elementary and middle schools, to volunteer to read submitted questions.

Please submit your questions via the link below.

Town Hall Question Collection Link:

<https://forms.gle/HnJ884TYCL2WTVgU7>

Town Hall Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86039004057>

SURVEY RESULTS (329 responses) :

Remote Academy

64.8% support to strongly support a remote academy for Cohort C

35.2% faintly support support a remote academy

Teacher Directed Time

54% support Wednesday afternoon

46% support Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

APRIL RETURN:

WREA Executive Board and Central Office Administration met today. We left the meeting deflated as structured learning time is being dictated by DESE. The current asynchronous hour at the end of the day and the hours on Wednesday afternoons are currently counted toward structured learning time. Superintendent McCall has informed us the hour at the end of the day will look the same as it did pre-pandemic.

Superintendent McCall and Assistant Superintendent Bob Berlo will look at the required hours for structured learning time and the possibility of a waiver to continue some extra teacher directed time on Wednesday afternoon. Here is the caveat: if we do not get the hours in, DESE will require the district to extend the school year to meet the hour requirement.

VACCINATION CLINIC:

A lot of effort has been put into the Covid vaccination clinic. Personally, I am thankful the Rutland Fire Department has coordinated this event on Wednesday, March 17th. Second doses will be administered on Friday, April 9th beginning at 4:30 p.m. More information will follow.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE:

I would like to introduce your new Negotiations Team

Asia Emerick- VP of Negotiations

WRHS Health Education: Grades 10, 11, 12

negotiationswrea@gmail.com

Jochen Welsch- Negotiation Team Member

WRHS Social Studies: Grades 9 & 10

jmawelsch@gmail.com

Jenna Tibbets- Negotiation Team Member

Mayo: 2nd grade classroom teacher

jtibbetts51@gmail.com

Mary Shepherd- Negotiation Team Member

Naquag Art Specialist: K-2

presidentWREA@gmail.com

Mary Beth Petit- Negotiation Team Member

Mountview Science Teacher- Grade 8

mbpetit@comcast.net

Elizabeth Budness- Negotiation Team Member

Thomas Prince: Speech Language Related Service Provider

elizabeth.budness@gmail.com

Robyn Spain- Silent Representative- Meeting Scribe

Robyn has joined the Team as a Silent Rep who will scribe every Negotiations meeting.

For the next round of negotiations, we also need a total of 5 Silent Representatives. Silent Representatives are different from Silent Observers. Silent Representatives are a

part of the Negotiations team and will attend **all** of the Negotiation meetings we have with the district. They will not need to attend the pre-meetings, and will not have a “speaking role” on the team, but will be an incredibly important part of the Team.

We need 4 additional representatives who will have the following jobs:

1. **Communications and Actions Team (CAT) and Negotiations Liaison**- This will be someone who will attend the CAT meetings on Thursday evenings and the Negotiations meeting. This person will communicate with CAT what has occurred during negotiations.
2. **Body Language Observer**- Body language is an incredibly important aspect in knowing how someone is reacting. Having one person who observes the body language of the ‘District’ will provide invaluable feedback to the team.
3. **Membership Communicator**- This person will be responsible for writing a brief summary of what occurred during each Negotiations meeting so that the membership can have immediate and frequent updates.
4. **Membership Surveyor**- What our members want is the most important part of Negotiations. Having someone dedicated to creating the polls and surveys will ensure that the Team has the members’ interests at the forefront of Negotiations at all times.

If you are interested in joining the Team as a Silent Representative, please email Asia @ negotiationswrea@gmail.com .

DUES DEDUCTIONS:

Dues deductions concluded on March 5, 2021. These dates apply to the majority of members, but there are some exceptions, such as late hires. Please reach out if you have any questions.

In Unity,

Mary Shepherd

President WREA