



Updates

Dear Fellow Members:

At our HOD this month, one board member verbalized an observation about our WREA membership. Less than ten percent of our membership participates in governing our actions, with only 40 educators of 540 members playing an active role. I agree participating takes time, but it is also very rewarding when you are contributing to your professional community.

Negotiations - Openings

Silent Observers are needed to sit at the negotiation table. The commitment involves attending negotiations with the district, observing body language, taking notes, and communicating what you observed back to the team. We have three high school observers and are looking for two PreK-8 WREA members. Please consider this role as it will broaden your understanding of how language is developed in our contract.

HOD - Openings

Building and specialty representatives are needed. Three district wide openings include K-8 Art, K-8 Music, and K-8 Special Education. Central Tree Middle School, Mayo Elementary and Naquag Elementary each have one opening. Please consider stepping forward, as many hands make light work.

Negotiations Update

The WREA Negotiations team met on Wednesday, October 13th. The team has filed the official intent to negotiate with the district this year, which is an important first step in the negotiations process. Thank you to everyone who participated in the different surveys over the past week, these results were discussed at the negotiating team meeting and will be used to guide the negotiations process. The team was able to narrow down the priorities members had and discussed many of the concerns you expressed in the survey. Your

replies were very helpful and will be useful when the team heads to the negotiating table in the future. The team plans to meet again the week of Oct. 25th. This will give the team time to review different contracts, language, and salaries before their next meeting. Thanks again to our members for all of your feedback and keep an eye out for the next update after the week of the 25th.

WREA T-Shirts

Delivery of WREA t-shirts will be delayed. There is a typo and they will be reprinted, most shirts will arrive in about three weeks, except a backorder on about one-third of the XL size which will take five weeks or so.

Professional Development

November 2nd will be a professional development day for all WREA members. This day is specifically allotted for PD and conducting parent/teacher conferences creates inequity among WREA members. Please remember that Wednesday afternoon on November 3rd will be parent/teacher conferences at the PreK-2 and high school levels. We will continue to strive for more equity on this issue.

Survey regarding Professional Development and Special Education

Look for a survey from your building representative later this week. All members should answer the first section and Special Education educators should also answer the second section. Your participation helps us make informed decisions for all members.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our district. It takes all of us to make our Wachusett village successful.

In unity,

Mary Shepherd

President WREA