

DMEA TEMPO

Volume 25 Issue 2

Des Moines Education Association

September 2000

Vote of No Confidence Rescinded

To All Members:

DMEA Faculty Representatives engaged in a constructive and sometimes heated debate at their September 14th meeting before voting to rescind the no confidence vote directed at both the School Board and Administration in the spring of 1999. We believe this vote will allow us to solve problems and move forward in a variety of areas of interest to you.

The following letter has been sent to School Board members and Dr. Witherspoon.

September 19, 2000

Dear School Board Member,

The Faculty Representatives of the DMEA voted to rescind the vote of no confidence last Thursday. This gives us the opportunity to move forward together.

I am sure you realize that we have some ongoing issues and concerns facing us. The discussion before the vote was intense. I believe the FRs have given us the benefit of the doubt on this issue and are in a stage of watchful waiting to see what happens.

The Association has many members suffering from low morale, stress and the feeling that they are held in low esteem by some board members and administrators. This is not self pity on their part, but the concern of the people on the front lines of education who see little support or encouragement from the Board and Administration. They have more and more dumped on them and less and less credit given them.

It is going to take time and positive actions to build the trust and good faith of some of these members. The FRs have lifted the votes of no confidence in good faith. We start a new school year with a newly elected Board and a newly elected president of the DMEA. With cautious optimism, the Association has opened the door to advance the cause of education in Des Moines. I hope we do not disappoint them.

Personally, I believe the vote to be the correct move for the District and the Association. Because of this, I believe this has been a banner week for the Association. Our endorsement of Jon Neiderbach helped put him over the top. The passage of both levies assures continuation of an integral component of District financing. And finally, we have the approval of the motion to rescind. These also benefit the District, and now we are challenged to do what we do best, educate our youngsters. I look forward to working with you and the Board to solve problems and move the District forward.

Sincerely,

*Chris Miller, President
Des Moines Education Association*

Early Retirement Deadline

The District and the DMEA have agreed that this year's deadline for letting the district know of your intention to take early retirement will be set back to December 15, 2000 instead of the previously announced November 1st deadline.

All other qualifiers remain; you must be 55 years old, have 10 years of continuous service in Des Moines, be in active service 130 days of this year and retire effective the last day of the school year. Your benefits will be as identified in the comprehensive agreement including a one-time bonus equal to 30% of your final salary and family health insurance until age 65. **Why the date change?** The District and the DMEA continue to work on an early retirement plan based on unused sick leave. If we reach agreement, there will be a need for teachers to have more time to consider options. We hope to have something for members to consider by mid to late October.

The progress is slow because the issue is complicated and has "fairness" implications depending on individual circumstances. Some have called to tell us about the "rumor" that this is the last year the district will offer early retirement. **NOT TRUE! Nothing has been said by any district official that would support that rumor.** Early retirement is a priority for the DMEA and it has advantages for the District. **Stay tuned!**

You did it! You did it! You did it!

Thanks to your hard work and vote, for the first time in three years a candidate endorsed by DMEA was elected to the Board. In spite of being called and doing calling ad nauseum, you were instrumental in the passage of the two levy issues that secure the financial health of the District. **Congratulations to every member!**

This is the heart of what it means to be an association. By working together it is easier to accomplish our group goals. These votes will make this district better and **YOU did it.** Thank you.

More good news: The Instructional Support levy and the Physical Plant levy are now in place for 10 years as is the sales tax approved last year. It will be some time before we have to gear up for another ballot issue.

Need Help?

The following people represent you and are always anxious to hear from members if there are any questions or suggestions

DMEA Executive Board for 2000-2001				DMEA Negotiations Cadre for 2000-2001		
		Home	Office		Home	Office
President	Chris Miller (Goodrell)	265-0049	265-6051	Cindy Roerig, chair (Greenwood)	285-6303	279-8859
Vice President	Toni Austin (River Woods)	282-8779	244-3490	Rhonda Anderson (associates) (East)	266-1952	242-7788
Secretary	Kris Mesicek (Title One)	964-2439	242-7845	Janice Redshaw (associates) (McKee)	262-7259	266-3423
Treasurer	Lesley Martin (Garton)	964-4079	262-3144	Phyllis Sutteck (secretaries) (Edmunds)	262-6118	243-1174
High Rep	Jim Patch (Central Campus)	285-5943	242-7846	Becky McNew (secretaries) (Granger)	287-2736	285-7525
Middle Rep	Pat Papenheim (Hiatt)	278-8823	242-7774	Travis Jacobs (McKinley/SUCCESS)	795-2241	243-1844
Elem. Rep	Alice Boyd (Cattell)	280-7110	262-5697	Pat Papenheim (Hiatt)	278-8823	242-7774
Elem. Rep	Hance Throckmorton (McKinley)	255-2386	243-1844	Paul Wallendal (Tech Services)	282-7687	242-7874
ISEA Bd Rep.	Paul Mann (Central Campus)	277-3731	242-7849	Janice Weiberg (Greenwood)	255-1695	279-8859
Ethnic Minor.	Carmen Winters (Findley)	285-7227	282-5281	Hance Throckmorton (McKinley)	255-2386	243-1844
Nurses	Janice Bannister (Oak Park)	274-0191	244-0301	Sue Case-Card (Goodrell)	279-8610	265-6051
Associates	Rhonda Anderson (East)	266-1952	242-7788	Jim VanTuyt (East)	287-3075	242-7788
Secretaries	Phyllis Sutteck (Edmunds)	262-6118	243-1174	Chris Miller, ex officio (Goodrell)	262-0049	265-6051
Parliamentarian	Ed Kelly (East)	965-7985	265-6051			

Free to You! NEA Dues-Tab Insurance

Each month we will spotlight one of the special benefits offered to association members. NEA Dues-Tab insurance comes with your membership at no additional cost to you. It consists of a life insurance policy and an accidental death and dismemberment policy. You are covered when you sign up for membership. Here are 6 good reasons to register.

1. You get up to \$1,000 of life insurance at no-cost to you.
2. You get up to \$5,000 of accidental death and dismemberment insurance at no-cost to you.
3. You get up to \$50,000 of no-cost accidental death and dismemberment insurance while on the job or engaged in Association activities.
4. You get coverage that is guaranteed with no health questions or medical exam.
5. You get coverage that can be converted to a guaranteed-issue term life plan when you retire.
6. You get coverage you can count on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Call the toll free numbers to get a form to change your beneficiary or if you have questions. The number is 1-800-637-4636. More information can be found on the NEA Member Benefits website at www.neamb.com.