
TEMPO

OF THE DES MOINES EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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The School Board will vote Tuesday, May 16th on the plan to change 1995-96 bell times at all levels and to have district-wide early dismissal on alternate Wednesdays. The time is to be used for collaboration and staff development.

To date the special sub-committee has not considered any alternatives to the plan they presented to the School Board as an information item on May 2nd.

The DMEA has presented two options and they are also in the hands of the School Board members. They are repeated as follow:

- Option A.** Continue with the current bell times at the elementary, middle and high schools. Maintain the current district-wide early dismissals at two per semester for high schools and middle schools. Structure all elementary schools on the "Adams Plan" of weekly early dismissals.
- Option B.** Continue with bell times. Implement three early dismissals per semester on a district-wide basis for all elementary, middle, and high schools. Respect the work done by those elementary schools that have been granted waivers by continuing the waivers.

The need for early dismissal is viewed differently among DMEA members. Elementary teachers continue to tell us they want more early dismissals to do group planning. We support that effort.

Middle and High School teachers tell us that their current plan is sufficient (2 per semester). The new district-wide plan would cause needless disruptions to schedules and after school activities. Scheduling problems with Central Campus are particularly difficult.

Contact School Board members before May 16th and express your opinion.

Jacquie Easley	245-2194
John Phoenix	288-0759
Liz Goodwin	279-0703
Gloria Hoffmann	277-5254
Suzette Jensen	266-7908
Laura Sands	279-3424
Jonathan Wilson	288-2500

Second Reminder

During this year, your paychecks are being distributed to you over 26 1/2 paychecks instead of the normal 26. In practical terms, here's what it will mean to you and why you have to plan ahead. In June, you will receive full paychecks on June 2, 16 and again on June 23rd. But on September 1, 1995 you will receive a paycheck equal to 1/2 of your regular check. That 1/2 paycheck will then have to last for 2 weeks.

SUMMER SERVICES

DMEA members have a variety of skills and talents to share. Each year DMEA puts together a Summer Services booklet offering services by DMEA members. If you have a service to offer and want to place a free ad in the DMEA Summer Services booklet, please contact the DMEA office at 277-6271 or FAX your ad to 277-0528. Deadline for submitting an ad is Monday, May 22 by noon. The office will need a few days to type, print, assemble and distribute the Summer Services booklet before the end of the school year.

INSURANCE

The May 8th Superintendent's BULLETIN includes a side-by-side comparison of all three health insurance plans available to employees. Please use this as a guide. If you have questions, call Mary O'Malia of Blue Cross/Blue Shield at 245-5159 or Eric Kolsdorf of Principal Health Care at 225-1234, ext.270.

If you are currently with Alliance Select 90/10 and plan to stay with Alliance Co-pay, you do not need to sign up. There are no changes in either the Principal Health Care "Comprehensive Plan" or the Principal Health Care "Classic Plan".

The BULLETIN directs you to call 242-7711 if you want the form to make a change. One of the critical questions for determining whether or not you want to change is the list of doctors and hospitals. You may also call Principal and Blue Cross/Blue Shield to find out if your doctor is on their list. The same Blue Cross/Blue Shield doctor and hospital network that existed for 90/10 will be in place for the new co-pay.

Bargaining

Next year the DMEA will have an opportunity to address two contractual issues that we have not been able to address for several years.

First is employee safety. Much has happened over recent years to impact employee safety in Des Moines schools. If you have thoughts about safety issues that need to be addressed, please bring them to the attention of the DMEA office.

The second issue is transfer. The transfer procedure in a large school district is complicated but we hope to simplify as well as protect the rights of employees. This issue will be considered in a joint labor-management committee.

Recognition Dinner Awards

On Tuesday, May 23 we will honor DMEA retirees at a dinner at Hoyt Sherman Place. In addition we will honor Dr. James Bowman as our Friend of Education and Sharon Eshelman as our Volunteer of the Year. Sharon volunteers at Windsor Elementary. Retiring North High Counselor and DMEA activist Lowell Perry will receive our Ruth Foster Award.

Scholarship winners are Erica Swanson, daughter of Perkins teacher Jo Winslow and Ryan Carnahan, son of Callanan teacher Steve Carnahan.

The deadline for dinner reservations is Friday, May 19th.

CALENDAR

May 15	Human Relations Committee	4:00 p.m.	DMEA Office
May 23	Recognition Dinner	6:30 p.m.	Hoyt Sherman Place
May 25	Executive Board meeting	4:00 p.m.	DMEA Office
June 5	DMEA R	11:30 a.m.	Royal Fork Restaurant

*FYI Nomination papers are available at the DMEA office for the Department of Education Teacher of the Year program. Nomination forms must be mailed to Susan Fischer at the Department of Education by June 30.