

Things You Need To Know



- ISEA is running a series of T.V. spots on all 3 local network channels between February 12 and February 29th. Most of the spots will be seen during the 10 p.m. newscast or on Nightline (WOI-TV). The spots are designed to build confidence in public schools and are part of an on going public relations effort conducted by the ISEA.

- Work continues with elected officials in Des Moines and suburbs in an effort to move forward on the local option sales tax that will provide the first phase funding for Vision 2005. There is currently talk about an election on the local tax to be held in late June. We will keep you posted.

- Six DMEA members were recently elected to serve on the ISEA PAC Central Committee. ISEA PAC rules require an even split between Democrats and Republicans. The following were elected to serve:

Representatives

Deb Henry (D)
Paul Mann (D)
Jim Patch (D)
Martha Cumpston (R)
Ruth Foster (R)
Arthur Long (R)

Alternates

Kevan Mulder (D)
Linda Young (D)



- Teacher members interested in early retirement are reminded that applications must go to the Director of Human Resource Management no later than March 1st. Another important date to keep in mind is that transfer requests should be in to Human Resource Management by April 1st.

• ATTENTION ALL ART TEACHERS

It is time for the 11th annual Design a Decal Competition sponsored by the ISEA and Art Educators of Iowa. Entries must have the name of the student, grade level, cooperating teacher, school building, address, city, zip code and school district printed or typed directly on the back of each entry and then submitted to Bill Sherman, ISEA by April 15, 1996. Results of the competition will be published in the ISEA Communique and mailed to news media outlets the following fall. Call the DMEA office for further information.

- NEA Member Benefits consultant Janet Zitzer will attend the March 4th In Service and will be located at the booth set up for NEA Value Builders. If you have questions about NEA benefits, stop by the booth and meet Janet.

- Those of you who transport students during the course of your employment duties should be aware that the district only provides secondary insurance coverage. Your own insurance is primary. You should visit with your own insurance company to make sure you have adequate coverage.

If you transport students on school related business or activities, you should make certain that you have the permission of your immediate supervisor.

T I M E

The School Board has twice delayed taking action on a proposal to allow time for school improvement and to change the bell times. The board consequently has two proposals to consider to further confuse everyone.

The time for school improvement is the same in both proposals. Each elementary building will dismiss early every other Wednesday for 90 minutes of collaboration time. The high school and middle school early release will be once per month. The difference deals with bell times. Here are the differences:

Original Proposal

"To enable the Transportation Department to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the district, the following bell times are recommended for elementary, middle, and high school beginning with the school year 1996-97."

<u>Level</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>95-96</u>
Elem.A	8:10	2:30	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Elem.B	8:40	3:00	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Elem.C	9:10	3:30	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Smouse	8:40	3:00	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Van Meter				
Middle	7:45	2:15	6 hr 30min	6 hr 30min
High	8:15	3:00	6 hr 45min	6 hr 45min

Alternative Proposal

<u>Level</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>96-97</u>	<u>95-96</u>
Elem.A	8:50	3:10	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Smouse	8:50	3:10	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Van Meter				
Elem.B	9:20	3:40	6 hr 20min	6 hr 10min
Middle	8:00	2:30	6 hr 30min	6 hr 30min
High	7:50	2:35	6 hr 45min	6 hr 45min

The DMEA Faculty Reps at their regular meeting on February 8 expressed a strong preference for the original proposal. The alternative proposal is only possible if the MTA picks up some of the high school and middle school routes. It eliminates the need for some elementary students to be picked up in the dark and moves the middle school start back 15 minutes.

The School Board tells us that they will act on February 20th. We shall see.