

# DMEA Tempo

Volume 20 Number 5

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## TIME

The issue of providing time for staff collaboration will again be considered by the School Board on January 23. Postponed last May, the issue was revisited by an expanded committee and a revised recommendation has been forwarded.

The DMEA Faculty Reps voted to support the new recommendation at their December meeting. Though not perfect, the new plan is considerably improved over last year's plan.

It provides 90 minutes collaboration time for all elementary buildings every other Wednesday afternoon. It provides less frequent but sufficient time for middle and high school once every month. The student contact day for middle schools is not extended.

The use of the time will clearly be determined at the building level and can include professional development, collaboration time or individual time.

The plan also changes bell times for all levels. They are as follows:

Level	Start	End	96-97	95-96
Elementary A	8:10	2:30	6h.20m.	6h.10m.
Elementary B	8:40	3:00	6h.20m.	6h.10m.
Elementary C	9:10	3:30	6h.20m.	6h.10m.
Smouse/VanMeter	8:40	3:00	6h.20m.	6h.10m.
Middle School	7:45	2:15	6h.30m.	6h.30m.
High School	8:15	3:00	6h.45m.	6h.45m.

Hopefully, the significant transportation problems encountered this year will be eliminated with the additional flexibility of a 3-tiered system.

Elementary A, B & C buildings are not yet determined.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan	18	Executive Board	4 p.m.	DMEA
Jan	22	IPD Committee	4 p.m.	DMEA
Jan	25	Dept. of Nurses	4 p.m.	DMEA
Jan	29	Human Relations	4 p.m.	DMEA
Jan	31	Open Bargaining	5 p.m.	District
Feb	1	Executive Board	4 p.m.	DMEA
Feb	5	GA	4 p.m.	DMEA
Feb	8	Faculty Rep	4 p.m.	North
Feb	13	Associate Party	4 p.m.	North
Feb	15	Executive Board	4 p.m.	DMEA
Feb	19	IPD	4 p.m.	DMEA
Feb	26	H.R.	4 p.m.	DMEA

## Thanks Karen

Karen Reese has announced her resignation from the ISEA Executive Board effective this month. Karen has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours in representing DMEA members on the ISEA Board since 1990. The duties also included service on the DMEA Executive Board.

We rely on unselfish volunteer efforts to run our association. Karen's efforts were substantial and high quality. Thanks to Karen for serving.

## Things

- It appears that the political parties in Iowa will proceed with their caucus activity on February 12th. Caucus kits for both Republican and Democrat members have been given to the Faculty Reps. Call the DMEA and we will send you the kit of your choice.

- More scholarships are available. The ISEA awards one scholarship yearly to a son or daughter of an ISEA member who is planning to teach. Deadline is February 1. And Horace Mann has several available for high school seniors who are sons or daughters of public school employees. Deadline is February 28th. Call the DMEA to get details.

- The Iowa Legislators is in town but we suspect you've noticed. ISEA lobby days are January 24, February 21, and March 27. What's your interest? Funding? retirement? technology? All of the above? It's not wise to let legislators make decisions without input.

- We get lots of questions from Associates and Secretaries about providing medical services to students when the school nurse is not available. The law says that an employee shall not be required to perform special health services or intrusive procedures unless they volunteer and are qualified. Qualified means formally trained.

- The DMEA task force on Special Education will be holding a series of meetings for all DMEA members to discuss the new special education rules, special education certification, teacher rights and neighborhood schools. Dates and locations are as follows:

Elementary	4 p.m.	Feb. 29	North High
Elementary	4 p.m.	March 26	Brody
Middle & High	3:30	March 12	North High

Dear Colleagues,

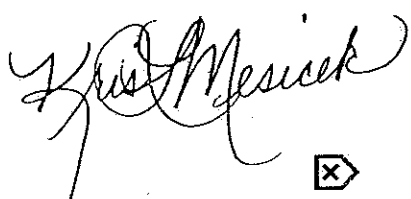

The Vision 2005 Citizens Committee is gearing up for a late spring election on the local sales tax to fund phase I of Vision 2005. We can help! The committee members have met with members of our own school board and the Des Moines City Council. In all of the meetings the support for the Vision 2005 and the local sales tax as a mechanism for funding the first phase, has been strong.

The chairs of our Vision 2005 teams are planning to go before Des Moines City Council, suburban city councils and school boards in the contiguous suburbs -- **Pleasant Hill, Johnston, Urbandale, Clive, Windsor Heights, and West Des Moines** -- by mid-February. They will ask those entities to consider the local sales tax immediately. When the Des Moines City Council votes to place a ballot question before the voters, we would ask the suburban boards to support the proposal and to make decisions on how their community will use its share of the tax. The formula for dividing the one-cent sales tax in Des Moines is as follows: 55% Property tax relief, 25% City Services, 16.5% Schools, 3.5% Cultural institutions (Art Center, Science Center, Botanical Center, Civic Center, etc.)

We can help by making contacts with suburban city councils, school boards and other key leaders in the six contiguous suburbs. It is critical to garner as much support as soon as possible, preferably before the Vision 2005 Citizens Committee chairs appear at those councils.

The Citizens Committee and the School District need the active support of the Des Moines school employees. **Our employees, who live outside of Des Moines, have an important role to play by encouraging their school boards and city councils to support the local sales tax. Each suburban resident will know of specific needs in their own community. Please call your council member. Your Faculty Rep has a list of public officials to contact.**

**We are entering a challenging and exciting period. Together, we can provide the leadership necessary to gain support for these benefits of a local sales tax in our communities:**


**Better Schools**
  
**Lower Property Taxes**  
**Improved City Services**  
⊠
**DMEA Election**
⊠

The DMEA election of officers and ISEA/NEA Delegates is coming up. The positions open for election on the Executive Board are:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>President/NEA Delegate</b> | <b>Vice President</b>                        |
| <b>Ethnic Minority Rep</b>    | <b>Middle School Rep</b>                     |
| <b>One(1) Elementary Rep</b>  | <b>ISEA Executive Board Rep(1 year only)</b> |

You will also be electing 10 ISEA Delegates to serve a 2-year term and 12 NEA Delegates to serve a 1-year term.

Election information and nomination forms will be distributed to each building through bag mail January 24. Contact your Faculty Rep Chairperson for nomination forms or call the DMEA office at 277-6271.

The deadline to file nomination papers is February 14. The election will be held March 5 & 6.

**SUGGESTION BOX**

Bag mail to DMEA or FAX to 277-0528.

**The School District could solve the Substitute Problem by**

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