

DMEA Tempo

Volume 20 Number 8

June 1996

WHY EDUCATORS CHOSE MCBURNIEY FOR CONGRESS

By President Paul Mann

Your elected representatives on the ISEA-PAC voted overwhelmingly to recommend support for Connie McBurney for the Democratic nomination for the 4th District congressional seat for many positive reasons.

Among them were:

1. **Connie** has a deep empathy for and an outstanding record of involvement in promotion of children's issues.
2. **Connie** is a "fresh face" who lacks many of the negative images associated with career politicians.
3. **Connie** is well-known and well-liked by "nearly everyone" in her district, which makes her far more electable in the general election than her primary opponent.
4. **Connie** has demonstrated in the extensive ISEA-PAC interviewing process that she understands and supports our positions on educational issues.
5. **Connie** has demonstrated great ability to raise money. She was recently cited by the Des Moines Register as the "top challenger" in fundraising this quarter. (Her opponent hadn't filed and "couldn't be reached for comment.")

There were also some "negative" reasons why our ISEA-PAC recommended McBurney over her opponent, a former friend of education, Jack Hatch. We wouldn't normally go into the negatives, except that a group of Hatch supporters have challenged us in the newspaper to explain our decision for Connie. I am delighted to give you a more complete picture.

Hatch is a former Polk County legislator a former friend of education, who had a decent record of support on education issues, until about the time ISEA PAC endorsed Branstad over Avenson for governor. Hatch then decided to lead the charge in the state legislature to "take education off auto pilot". He later bragged about his efforts, which had resulted in taking the forward-funding mechanism for education out of the law. Thus, for several years, it was extremely difficult to bargain for good raises in teacher salaries because a school district didn't know how much money it was going to receive from the legislature until extremely late in the bargaining process. This meant that they had to bargain very hard against us, just to protect themselves from overspending. Hatch caused us immense problems for years until the forward funding mechanism was restored to law recently. Many of us will never forget the damage he caused teachers and students!

Your representatives on the ISEA-PAC followed all procedures scrupulously, and the reception of our members to our recommendation of McBurney has been overwhelmingly positive! We trust that our members will not be misled by the recent, desperate, political ploy of die-hard Hatch supporters who probably support Hatch for other than educational issues.

WE ASK ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, WHETHER REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS, OR INDEPENDENTS, TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING CONNIE MCBURNEY IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH!

PRIMARY ELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

Your representatives on the ISEA-PAC recommended the following excellent candidates for support in the primary on June 4th:

John Connors - Democrat for the Iowa House

Maggie Tinsman-Republican for U.S. Senate

Connie McBurney-Democrat for U.S. Congress

Tom Harkin - Democrat for U.S. Senate

Regardless of your current party (or independent) affiliation, you may request either a Democratic or a Republican primary ballot. Whichever you choose, please consider supporting the candidates recommended by your fellow educators!

"Thank You"

As the year comes to an end, Kris and Paul would like to take this opportunity to express their appreciation to all of those who have been a part of making this a successful year for the Association!

Special thanks also goes to the Faculty Reps, committee members, and the Executive Board for their many hours of hard work on behalf of colleagues and students.

It is a pleasure to work with all of you!



Developmental Team Examines Mentoring

How does our profession provide support to new members? How do we help those new to teaching meet the challenges of today's classrooms and find on-going satisfaction with their chosen careers? A Phase III Developmental Team made up of District Administrators and DMEA representatives is examining these and other questions involved in creating a Mentoring program for first year teachers.

There are many well-documented benefits of a Mentoring program for new teachers, mentor teachers, students, school districts, and education as a whole. The benefits are such that Michigan, Missouri, California, and Arizona have state-mandated Mentoring programs for first year teachers. Many school districts across the country have implemented Mentoring projects and are pleased with the results.

The Phase III team is learning from the experience of established programs. Work is underway in the design of the Des Moines Mentoring project. Preliminary plans are to begin the 1996-97 school year with a program for first year teachers at the elementary level. The program would expand to K-12 the following year and also encompass teachers new to the district.

There is a great deal of work to be done during the summer months. DMEA is well-represented by an enthusiastic group that already has many excellent ideas.



TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT
June 17 & 18, 1996
by President Paul Mann

In recent conversations with Superintendent Wegenke and Dr. Pat Moran, I expressed concern that "teaching and learning" needs were not being represented in the district's technology decision making process. It has now been confirmed that the list of those invited to attend the first district technology summit will be increased significantly from about 80 to around 200 participants, in order to assure adequate representation from all stakeholders.

Each building will be invited to select a faculty representative through the shared decision making process to accompany the principal to the summit. The Association will be allowed to name six additional representatives. If you are interested, talk to your principal and faculty to see if you may represent them. If unsuccessful, tell me you would like to serve as one of our reps.

All of our members who will be attending the technology summit are invited to attend an Association briefing at the DMEA office at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 10, to discuss development of an Association position on the technological needs of "teaching and learning".

Have a Happy and Productive Summer!