

DMEA TEMPO

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DES MOINES EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

March 6, 1998

“UNPRECEDENTED” ACTION

by President Mann

For the past 3 weeks, your DMEA leaders have worked feverishly behind the scenes to affect major changes in the administration's proposed budget for 1998-99! We were extremely gratified, but not completely relieved, when the board voted last night (at our request) to delay the adoption of the budget for one week in order to gather more information on the budget process, on alternatives to proposed cuts, and on the administration's rationale for proposed cuts. Although this is only a temporary victory, the DSM Register called the delay “unprecedented”!

Like many of you, we have been appalled by the administration's priorities for budget cuts, especially the Smoother Sailing cuts. I made our dismay very clear when I addressed the board on Tuesday, March 3, 1998. When it became clear that major effort would be needed to change administration's priorities, I appointed a Crisis Team that met several times to help recommend overall strategy to the DMEA Executive Board.

DMEA Crisis Team members are: Elaine Wilkinson, Phillips; Pat Papenheim, Hiatt; Alice Boyd, Cattell; Janean Faux, Jackson; Jim Patch, Central Campus; Chris Miller, Goodrell; Lois Blum, Lutheran; Helen Ringgenberg, Meredith; Judy Leitzke, district offices; Joan Lyons, North; Sally Diane, Hoyt; Lola Mann, Hubbell; Susan Notman-Cook, Park Avenue; and Deb Isenhardt, Moulton.

Our major objectives now are to convince the DSM School Board to:

1. *Assure that at least 4.5 central administration cuts (3%) occur.*
2. *Slow the Reserve Fund buildup by cutting \$5.1 million rather than \$6.1 million from next year's budget, avoiding \$1 million of budget cuts. Build the reserve fund over 4 years rather than 3 years.*
3. *Avoid spending \$1 million of general fund money on building repairs.*

These 3 changes alone would save \$2.45 million, enough to fund the 21 Smoother Sailing counselors, the 10 SWS counselors, 25 Special Ed. Associates, and about 4.5 other Certificated positions!

We will need your help contacting school board members, attending the March 12th special board meeting at 7 PM, and writing letters! We have a lot of hard work to do, and we need your understanding, your vocal support of our 3 goals, and your presence at boards meetings!

Together, we can make a real difference for students and staff!

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

March 9	Human Relations Committee Meeting	4:00 p.m.	DMEA office
March 10	Dept. of Associates Executive Board	4:15 p.m.	DMEA office
March 12	Faculty Representative Meeting	4:00 p.m.	North Cafeteria
March 16	ISEA Delegate Orientation	4:00 p.m.	Samuelson

Early Retirement/Extension of Deadline

The DMEA members ratified our tentative agreement with the District for amendments to the 98-99 contract. Last evening the School Board ratified all 3 (Certificated, Associates, Clerical) by 7-0 votes.

That clears the way for the district to offer early retirement bonuses and health care coverage to Certificated employees at age 55 who have been with the district for 10 years.

The Human Resources department will alert everyone in the STAFFER that the deadline for applying for early retirement will be set back to April 3, 1998.

On a related bargaining issue we want to assure everyone that the DMEA is working with the District to hold a series of meetings for all employees to explain the new provisions of health care policies and to give people a chance to switch plans if they desire.

1998-99 School Calendar

The DMEA worked with district administrators in the fall to establish a school calendar for 1998-99. The proposal called for school to begin prior to September 1st so it was necessary to receive a waiver from the Department of Education. That waiver was granted recently. Here are a few details about the 98-99 calendar:

Monday, August 24	Current Employees Report
Thursday, August 27	First day of School
Dec. 21 ---- Jan 1	Winter Break
March 22-26	Spring Break
Thursday, June 3	Last day for Elementary & Middle Schools
Friday, June 4	Last day for High Schools

CONTRACTS

The district has notified the DMEA that they will not be able to produce individual contract amendments. The new enterprise system will not print them without a special program. Mid-Iowa printed them in prior years.

ISEA legal counsel has offered an opinion. Teachers sign a continuing contract upon initial employment. That contract continues year to year with modification for salary and number of days to be worked. According to ISEA legal counsel, the annual amendments in contract form are not necessary and that we may not be successful in insisting on the contract. Unless things change, expect to receive a letter from the district stating your new salary. Don't be alarmed. Your continuing contract will remain in force.

BRIEFLY:

- ❖ George Fischer Scholarship applications are available in high school counseling offices. The deadline for applications is March 20th.
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year and Friend of Education nomination forms may be obtained from your building FR. The nominations are due April 24th.
- ❖ Teachers should not be expected to provide administration with an evaluation of Associates. Evaluation is an administrative function.
- ❖ The annual Recognition Dinner is May 28th at Embassy Suites.
- ❖ The 13th Annual Design a Decal Competition sponsored by the ISEA and Art Educators of Iowa is under way. Students participating should submit their entries to Bill Sherman, ISEA, 4025 Tonawanda Drive, Des Moines, IA 50312 by April 14. Entries received after that date will not be evaluated.

