

DMEA TEMPO

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Des Moines Education Association

October 1999

GET READY FOR A BARRAGE OF MISINFORMATION ON THE SALES TAX!

By President Paul Mann

The opposition to the Sales Tax has followed through with promises to hit us sooner and harder than last spring. Their latest tabloid is full of misinformation and scare tactics that will likely be highly effective in creating doubt in the minds of many voters. It is, therefore, more imperative than ever before that all DMEA members redouble their efforts to help get out an accurate message on student and staff needs for adequate learning facilities.

Before I present an update, I would like to thank each one of you for the many ways you have worked to help win passage of the sales tax! We know that our members are working in multiple ways, not only in our own, strong, independent DMEA campaign, but also with other community members and groups, in door to door efforts, in recruitment of volunteers, organizing student booths at open houses and conferences, seeking absentee ballots among students, staff, neighbors, and friends, and registering students and adults to vote! Thank you!

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS HELPING STUDENTS!

Some things to remember:

1. The last day to register to vote prior to the Sales Tax vote on November 23 is November 12.
2. If you apply to vote absentee, as we strongly recommend, you **MUST** vote absentee. You will be unable to vote at the polls on Election Day unless you bring your absentee ballot at that time. Absentee ballots will be counted if voted (postmarked) as late as Election Day, but, of course, the idea is to vote early in case of illness, injury, or other emergency on Election Day.
3. On November 2, all staff who work in a building that is a polling place for the city elections may vote absentee in their buildings on the Sales Tax. (However, you have to vote in your own polling place for candidates for city council or mayor.)
4. DMEA has a limited number of Sales Tax buttons to sell for \$1 each. (Call 471-8040)
5. No DMEA dues money may be spent on the Sales Tax campaign.
6. No district equipment or paper may be used on the Sales Tax campaign.
7. DMEA members may openly promote the Sales Tax with staff during DMEA meetings in buildings.
8. A limited number of yard signs will be available on Saturday, November 6. (Call 471-8040 to sign up for one or to volunteer to help put up the signs on Saturday, November 6.)
9. On Monday, November 22, DMEA will be phoning all members who have not voted absentee to urge a "yes" vote. (Again, please call us to volunteer to help phone from the DMEA office or your home.)
10. Finally, do not forget about those "snow birds" and college students who may be away from Polk County at this time of year! (Suppose there were 43 of them who didn't vote absentee last time?)

Thank you for all you are doing in these troubling times. We know many of you are exhausted already and the year has only begun. Please try to summon up the energy to help us win the most important vote for our students that we are likely to face in our lifetimes!



*******UNITED / PROTECTED / CONNECTED*******

The Walt Galvin Scholarship is available to the son, daughter or dependent of a DMEA member who is enrolled as a senior (minimum 90 hours) in a teacher preparation program and who intends to teach. All information is in the application forms. Call to get an application sent to you. (471-8040) DMEA associate and secretary members are also eligible to apply for this scholarship if they are studying to be a teacher and meet the criteria. Two \$1,000 Walt Galvin Scholarships will be awarded. Applications and all supporting documentation must be returned to the DMEA office by December 10, 1999.

DMEA CALENDAR SURVEY RESULTS
By President Mann

Thank you for your excellent responses to our survey! John and I have read every comment (even those arriving late) and will convey your concerns to the district, both orally and in writing. Now for the results:

DMEA members recently cast a resounding "NO" vote to the district proposal for lengthening the calendar year by the addition of intercession days. 695 voted "NO" and 202 voted "YES" to the statement, "I support the inclusion of 4 intercessions days as described in the survey."

- 440 voted for Option 4 – a 9-day (shorter) winter break and no intercession days;
- 260 voted for Option 3 – an 11-day (longer) winter break and no intercession days;
- 188 voted for Option 2 – a 9 day (shorter) winter break and 4 intercession days; and,
- 69 voted for Option 1 – an 11 day (longer) winter break and 4 intercession days.

Of the 957 members who returned the calendar survey, 805 would use intercession days to take time off, 202 would use the time for professional development, and 66 would teach on intercession days. (This totals more than 957; some marked multiple categories.) There were only 24 high school, 14 middle school, and 28 elementary volunteers to teach intercession days!

Based on these survey results, it is clear that there are NOT enough staff members willing to work intercession days for district plans to proceed. These results were shared with the administration at a recent calendar advisory committee meeting, along with strong statements about the lack of research to support the educational value of two 2-day intercessions based on remediation. We believe the impressive number of returns and the strong comments you expressed will be decisive in district decisionmaking on intercession days! Watch for further information coming soon.

NEWS: We just learned that the Superintendent will accept the DMEA recommendation to use option 4 (above) as the school calendar for 2000-01. There will be no intercession days but there will be further joint study on the intercession day concept.

This is just one more reason why we all join DMEA, in order to have effective staff involvement in district decisionmaking. Thank you for helping us serve you better!

The DMEA bargaining team is busy preparing and they would like to hear from DMEA members. Their names and home phone numbers are listed below. Call one of them to give your suggestions or call the DMEA office at 471-8040. Either way, we would like to have your suggestions by November 15th.

Bargaining Team Members	School	Home Phone
Cindy Roerig	Greenwood	285-6303
Rhonda Anderson	East	266-1952
Travis Jacobs	McKinley	795-2241
Judy Leitzke	Adult Ed	265-5422
Garrett Nyman	Roosevelt	262-9652
Pat Papenheim	Hiatt	278-8823
Janice Redshaw	McKee	262-7259
Phyllis Sutte	Edmunds	262-6118
Paul Wallendal	Tech Services	282-7687
Janice Weiberg	King	255-1695
Elaine Wilkinson	Phillips	265-9983
Paul Mann	DMEA	277-3731

The following subjects are open this year.

Teachers	Associates	Secretaries
Salary	Salary	Salary
Insurance	Insurance	Insurance
Supplemental pay		Hours
Phase III		Transfer Procedure
Service year		Grievance Procedure
Hours		

Coming Events:

Secretaries Meeting November 3, 1999
at Edmunds at 4:00 PM in the Community Room. Come and voice your opinion on bargaining for secretaries.