

Haverhill Education Association News

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Joseph V. Cunha, President – Ted Kempinski, 1st Vice President – Anthony J. Parolisi, 2nd Vice President

John Craven, Secretary – Lisa Begley, Treasurer

Lois Silva, ESP Rep. – Patti MacRae, Secretarial Rep. – Linda Kiefer, Office Secretary

URGENT ACTION NEEDED MTA TO MEMBERS: DEMAND “NONE OF THE ABOVE”!

Tell state education officials how you feel about DESE’s “policy options” that could cost you your teaching license based on your evaluation or other performance measures. No other profession links licensure to job-based performance!

When it’s time to renew or advance your license, which of the following do you want DESE to include?

- Tying your state teaching license to your evaluation.
- Tying your state teaching license to your students’ test scores.
- Tying your state teaching license to student feedback.
- NONE OF THE ABOVE!**

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

4:30 pm – 7:00 pm (arrive at 4:15 pm)

Malden High School

77 Salem Street

Malden, MA

(Parking available along Centre St. (Rte. 60), Main St., and Jackson St.)

THE HAVERHILL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU AT THIS EVENT!

YOUR VOICE MUST BE HEARD!

Sign up with your building rep!

Let them know you support “none of the above” at this DESE “town hall” event and by sending an email to Commissioner Chester and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education members at massteacher.org/noneoftheabove

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

What You Need to Know and How to Respond to Others (save this for Thanksgiving with the family!)

Linking Licensure to Evaluation is Wrong

- No other profession links job performance with licensure.
- There are already mechanisms in place that allow a license to be pulled for grievous offenses. Adding employment-related performance reviews is unnecessary.
- Linking performance measures to licensure would allow districts to target certain teachers with the threat of not only losing their job, but of losing their ability to teach in any public school in Massachusetts as well.
- Linking performance measures to licensure will discourage people from entering the teaching profession.

The State's Role is to Determine if an Educator is Qualified

- The appropriate role for the state is to determine whether a practicing educator has met the professional development requirements for renewing their license. The determination of whether a teacher's job performance is sufficient should be left to the local school district.
- Tying educator job performance to licensure ignores the intent of the Educator Evaluation System. The system was meant to be collaborative and to promote cooperation.
- The data on which the decision about an educator's performance is biased and the implementation of the educator evaluation system is different in every building, in every school district.

Too Many Mandates on Top of Too Many Mandates

- This proposal comes at a time when educators are already burdened by way too many mandates and new initiatives.
- There is no clear explanation of why it is so urgent to impose this new burden at this time as we continue to deal with DDMs and other evaluation issues.
- There certainly is no explanation of how students will benefit from it. There is no rationale for how tying licensure to performance is in the best interests of our students!

PLEASE JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH AT MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL!
EMAIL COMMISSIONER CHESTER AND THE BESE AT massteacher.org/noneoftheabove
We need YOUR VOICE to be heard so we can tell DESE "NONE OF THE ABOVE!"

SEI Endorsement MTEL

NOW AVAILABLE (NO RETELL!!!)

Preparation materials may be found on the web @
www.mtel.nesinc.com/MA_PM.asp?t=56

Congratulations!

The HEA extends its warmest congratulations to:

- Ashlyn (Butler) Lord for her recent marriage.
- Casey (Moran) DiFelice for her recent marriage.
- Dinorah Peralta for the birth of a baby girl.
- Bernie Cantwell for the birth of a baby girl.

Condolences

Wishes of comfort and peace are extended to:

- *Tom Roche and his family for the loss of his mother and beloved Haverhill teacher, Beth Boland.*
- *Antonietta Diskin for the loss of her father.*
- *Paul Migliori for the loss of his mother.*
- *Ted Kempinski for the loss of his father-in-law.*
- *Ginger Iola for the loss of her mother.*

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The Haverhill Education Association is now live on Facebook. Find us on your computer or mobile device at



www.facebook.com/HaverhillTeachers

STAY INFORMED!

Don't be left out! Confirm your contact information with your building representative today or send an email from your private account to haved@verizon.net (subject: ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST).

Retiring?

Margaret Pfifferling can help research past Haverhill employment for retirement buy back. Contact Margaret @ 978-372-9958 for information.

The HEA may also host MTA Retirement information sessions at our office with enough interest. Contact your building rep or email haved@verizon.net for more information.

Work in More Than One Building?

This year's travel reimbursement rate is \$0.56/mile

HEA RETIREMENT LUNCHEON BIG SUCCESS

Fran Rosenau reports 30 retired members attended the 10th annual fall HEA-R luncheon, which was held on October 14th at the Sweetheart Inn in Methuen. Congratulations to our door prize winners, Pat LaChance and Jane Siebecker! Those in attendance made many suggestions for the spring get-together, so watch for details in future editions of the HEA Newsletter!

FROM THE DESK OF JOE CUNHA

Dear Colleagues:

We are in trouble.

I hoped this to be the Happy Thanksgiving – Happy Chanukah – Merry Christmas – Happy New Year letter, but DESE says different.

The Department of Education along the years has made changes to the requirements of being a part of our profession. We've suffered the loss of the lifetime certification, to be replaced by the renewal process we all enjoy. We try to keep up with mandates of ever changing ESL training and certifications. Who can leave out the new evaluation law and the cumbersome process to prove we know what we're doing? (Can you say guilty until proven innocent, anyone?) The list goes on and never stops.

The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, led by Mitchell Chester – Chester Mitchell, a true-to-life Burgermeister Meisterburger, is moving to propose legislation in the spring 2015 session that will allow local school districts to strip you of your certification.

They wish to tie your certification to test scores, parent involvement, student feedback, and your evaluation rating, among other things.

They've held "Town Hall Meetings" at which they will not hear any opposition to the Policy Options. In short, these are a stacked sham. When you try to sign up, they say capacity has been reached. Members who've attended report that at one meeting the supposed capacity audience was made up of only 20 people.

The MTA has devised a simple plan. We are to go to the November 19 "Town Hall" at Malden High School and "storm the Bastille", so to speak. If we get in, great! If we can't, we'll take part in a massive protest outside made up of MTA local members from across the state. This is something that can't be left to others. You must fight to stop this and take action now.

Your reps have held or will hold a meeting with more information. All materials given to me by MTA are on our site, haverhill.massteacher.org and you should familiarize yourselves with this information.

Hope to see you all on the 19th.

In solidarity,

Joe

2015 HEA Scholarship Drive

Since its inception, the Haverhill Education Association Scholarship has awarded nearly \$5000 to deserving young men and women transitioning to college after at least 8 years in the Haverhill Public Schools. After receiving his award at our annual Honors Banquet, 2014 HEA Scholarship winner Erik Clark took the time to write a letter of gratitude to the members of the HEA. Erik writes:

Dear Haverhill Education Association,

I want to say thank you for selecting me as the sole recipient of the Haverhill Education Association (HEA) Scholarship Award. It is truly an honor and a privilege to have been chosen for this scholarship. Your generous gift will be used toward my college expenses at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

I have had four wonderful and memorable years at Haverhill High School and specifically in the Classical Academy. I've made life long friendships, had teachers who inspired me to learn and found mentors in many of the teachers I had studied under throughout my entire educational experience in Haverhill. I learned to be resilient, develop patience and become passionate and dedicated in my search for knowledge.

I'm looking forward to college and work hard to prepare for a successful future in engineering. Thank you again for this honor and generous scholarship award.

Sincerely,

Erik Clark

It is through the hard work and dedication of the HEA's members that Haverhill's students learn the skills necessary to succeed in today's world in the classroom and out of it. Thankfully, we have students like Erik to remind us just how much of a difference each of us can make in the lives of others. If you have not already, please contribute to this year's HEA Scholarship fund and watch for other opportunities to contribute throughout the school year. As donations arrive totals and contributions to be reported here in future editions of the HEA Newsletter and on our website. If you are not sure how to contribute, or have an idea of how you can do more to help, contact your building representative or Anthony Parolisi (anthonyparolisi@gmail.com).

Executive Board Contact Information

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Got a general question? Not sure who to ask? Email: haved@verizon.net