

NORTHSHORE NEWS

March, 2007

NORTHSHORE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Issue 7



NSEA Calendar

March 2007

- ◆ **March 12th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **March 13th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 4:00 pm Admin Center
- ◆ **March 14th:** Mock Rep Assembly for NSEA WEA-RA Delegates, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Shoreline Center
- ◆ **March 17th:** Northshore Legislator Town Hall Meeting (*see below for details*)
- ◆ **March 27th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Moorlands Elem
- ◆ **March 29th-31st:** WEA Rep Assembly, Tacoma Convention Center

April 2007

- ◆ **April 3rd:** Exec Board Meeting, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ **April 9-13th:** Spring Break!
- ◆ **April 16th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm BHS Library
- ◆ **April 24th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Admin Center

May 2007

- ◆ **May 7th:** Exec Board Meeting, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm NSEA Office
- ◆ **May 8th-10th:** NSEA Elections
- ◆ **May 8th:** NSD School Board Meeting, 4:00 pm, BHS
- ◆ **May 8th:** C.P. Johnson Award Ceremony, 5:30 pm, Northshore Performing Arts Center
- ◆ **May 14th:** Rep Council Meeting, 4:00-6:00 pm, BHS Library
- ◆ **May 22nd:** NSD School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Admin Center
- ◆ **May 28th:** Memorial Day

Town Hall Meeting

On March 17th from 10:00 to 11:30 am, Northshore's legislators will be holding a Town Hall Meeting at the North Creek Café (on the Cascadia/UW Bothell campus). Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Representative Mark Ericks, and Representative Al O'Brien will be on hand to hear your concerns. NSEA will be presenting What Your Number stories at what promises to be a lively meeting!

President's Message

Enough with the snow already! I want to hear the sound of a baseball hitting a bat, smell freshly mowed grass, see daffodils and tulips blooming in the garden, and feel warm sunshine on my face! I'm thinking of having a pagan ritual and burning this year's Farmer's Almanac as an act of cleansing away the horrible weather of this winter! I could not believe the weather on the evening of February 28th!



The Northshore School District is still in the process of reviewing whether or not we qualify for a waiver from the state. If we do, the district will apply for the emergency waiver of the day missed in December due to the windstorm. That day will be applied to this last closure, so students will still get out on June 22nd. If we do not qualify, then the last day for students will be on June 25th. The last day for staff is now June 27th regardless of whether we get the waiver or not.

There have been many questions concerning the make up of seven hours of work time in our calendar adjustment. NSEA has worked with the district through Labor/Management to clarify how and when these hours should be used. Please refer to the email I sent out on March 6th detailing the criteria that must be followed for these flex hours.

The district budget reduction numbers plan should be presented to the School Board soon for their consideration. If you have never attended a School Board meeting, or if it has been a long time since you did, please plan to attend the upcoming board meetings! They are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Be informed as to what these proposed cuts will mean.

There will be a Town Hall Meeting with our local legislators on Saturday March 17th at the North Creek Café on the Cascadia/UW Bothell Campus in Bothell. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am and go until 11:30 am, and is open to the public. NSEA will be presenting our legislators, Rosemary McAuliffe, Mark Ericks, and Al O'Brien, with many of our number stories from the Take The Lead banners now in schools.

Again, let's hope for spring!

Health & Safety Committee Reminder

The District and the Association have an agreement that each building will establish and maintain a Health and Safety Committee. A \$600 stipend is available to the peer elected chair person. The chair is open first to certificated personnel and then, with approval, to classified staff. There are currently Health and Safety Committee chair positions open at Canyon Creek, Fernwood, Hollywood Hill, Lockwood, Shelton View, Westhill, Woodin, and Leota.

Health and Safety Committee responsibilities include:

- Conducting regular meetings
- Reviewing incident and accident reports
- Checking for hazards and making recommendations to rectify potential problems
- Planning for safety and emergency response
- Posting information and meeting notes

Please refer to pg. 119 of the collective bargaining agreement for more information.

What Will It Take?

What will it take for the state's 1 million public school students to meet high academic standards?

Washington's Constitution states, "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..." What's "ample"?

A groundbreaking new study to answer this question was released February 22nd. Based on over a year of research by David Conley, PhD, the study is the most comprehensive peer-reviewed school funding study ever done in Washington history. Using four different research methods (to compensate for the weakness in any one method) here's what he found:

- **Per student funding needs to increase an average of \$3,613. That's a 45% increase (using the most recent 04-05 figures).**
- **This investment would move Washington State from 42nd in funding to 7th in funding. (It is not "pie-in-the-sky.")**

What would this buy? The report calls for a number of specific actions, including:

- Reductions in K-3 class sizes to 17 students.
- A 28% pay increase for certificated staff in King and Snohomish Counties, based on a comparison with comparable professionals in the area, to ensure well-qualified teachers
- Additional librarians, aides, and supplies for all libraries.
- Full-day kindergarten for all.
- Increase campus security.
- Additional staff for English language learners.
- Additional professional development.



Take the lead.
Restoring Washington's Commitment
to Great Public Schools

The report was commissioned by the WEA, and was released at an event sponsored by the WEA and Washington State PTA, the League of Education Voters Foundation, the Association of School Principals, Public School Employees of Washington, the Prosperity Partnership, the Washington State School Directors' Association and the Washington Association of School Administrators.

You can read a summary of it, or a complete copy of it, by going to the WEA web page (www.washingtonea.org) and clicking on "What would adequate funding for public schools actually provide?"

How is the study being used?

- To educate the public, to build support for the funding we need.
- To lobby the Governor and Legislature.
- As evidence when the lawsuit filed by NEWS gets to court. The Network on Excellence in Education (NEWS) was initiated by the WEA, and includes the State PTA, League of Women Voters, Seattle Urban League, and many districts and local associations.

Classifieds

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE: 30 years worth of K-12 physical education units, games, handouts, tests, activities, books, etc. etc. Boxes and boxes of lesson plans, ready to roll! First \$400.00 takes everything! Call Wayne at 806-7043

SPEND YOUR SUMMER WITH US: Wild Waves is hiring for the summer season! We offer a variety of shifts, including full-time and part-time work, on-call shifts and flexible schedules. Employment is available in many departments including: Group Sales, Admissions, Aquatics, Retail, Security and Human Resources. To apply, please visit our website at www.wildwaves.com. If you would like more information please contact Mary Bigham mbigham@sftp.com

FOR SALE: Comfortable LA-Z-BOY sleeper sofa. Queen size (84"x35"x31"). Non-smoking household. Mattress rarely used. Fabri-Coate, lifetime warranty. Pictures available upon request. \$335 Contact Beth Lovitt at blovitt@ispwest.com or 425-869-2733

LONG TERM CARE: The NEA Long term care insurance group plan, underwritten by Mutual of Omaha Insurance offers you the flexibility to fashion a program designed to fit your specific need. There are several options available. The plan allows you to receive the long term care services you need. The group plan also offers a 10% discount for your NEA membership and a 30% discount for married couples. For more information please call: Charlene Walden. NEA Member Benefit at (360) 863-1867 or cwalden36@yahoo.com.

EDUCATOR SAVINGS WEEK: Borders' Educator Saving Week is March 22-27. Teachers get 25% off personal and classroom purchases with their educator ID. A reception with food, fun, and prizes will be held on March 23rd from 4:00-8:00 pm. See www.bordersstores.com/educator for more information.

School Board Takes the Lead!

At the February 27th NSD School Board meeting, an important resolution was passed by the Board. This resolution speaks directly to the points WEA and NSEA are advocating concerning the crisis in education funding. The resolution states that the Board and District will work directly with the Association to take the message of this crisis to parents, voters, and business leaders in our district. NSEA welcomes the School Board in this work that will certainly take a few years to accomplish!

Northshore News is a publication of the Northshore Education Association. NSEA is the union and professional organization of the certificated staff of the Northshore School District.

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Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now open for several NSEA positions including president, vice-president, Exec Board and Contract Maintenance Committee.

If you have ever thought about being more involved with the Association, this would be a great time to step up!

Please take some time to consider nominating yourself or someone else for one of the open positions.

A Nomination form can be found on our website, www.northshoreea.org. Completed nomination forms must be sent to the NSEA office by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 30th.