

2021 NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

New Business Item #1

In 1974, while engaged in a bitter strike, 84 members of the Hortonville Education Association, an affiliate of WEAC-Fox Valley/WEAC/NEA, were unjustly fired and unduly replaced by their school district. WEAC condemns the strikebreakers who crossed the picket line in Hortonville. WEAC honors the Hortonville Education Association members who pulled together to improve learning conditions for students and working conditions for educators everywhere. True, they sacrificed their jobs – but they sacrificed much more than that. After their struggle, no one could ever deny collective bargaining is a fundamental right. Let us honor the Hortonville 84 by emulating their resolve. Let us respect the courage of the HEA by “pulling together” and restoring our rights. This policy is to be reviewed annually by the WEAC Representative Assembly.

Submitted by: WEAC Board of Directors

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #2

WEAC supports Ron "Duff" Martin for NEA Executive Committee.

Submitted by: Shelly Krajacic, Ellsworth Education Association

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #3

1. WEAC leaders will work with leaders of the UW-Madison Career Center (School of Education) and the Wisconsin Association of School Personnel Administrators to repurpose the cumbersome WECAN education application system (Wisconsin Education Career Access Network) used across the state by most school districts. The system shall contain more options for information entry, be user friendly and easily navigated. A Help Desk shall be set up in the immediate interim to assist applicants with any questions or difficulties.
2. WEAC leaders will work with DPI to streamline the licensing application and renewal process, including background checks. A Help Desk shall be set up in the immediate interim to assist persons using the licensing system.

Rationale: The WECAN system is cumbersome and rigid. The system discourages people from even applying, especially retirees, substitutes and paraprofessionals. Retirees are having to hire education college students to help them through the online application process or obtain in-person help from their corresponding Human Resources department.

Current teachers and new substitutes have difficulty navigating the initial licensing and renewal process without help from peers or their Human Resources department.

Submitted by: Betty Kossik, WEAC-Retired

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #4

WEAC will use all means necessary to eliminate excessive state and federally mandated testing of students in 4K – Grade 12 and to end use of the Wisconsin school report cards. WEAC will work to discourage Wisconsin school districts from mandating excessive over-testing, such as individually administered reading and writing tests that are deemed unnecessary by classroom teachers.

Rationale: We believe the commitment of substantial time and resources to testing and evaluation diverts those same resources from the educational needs of students and teachers who wish to align their skills to the real needs of students. The school report cards unfavorably punish schools of diversified students and families. Testing does not promote equity and reinforces institutionalized racism.

Submitted by: Gretchen Kubeny-GBEA, Elona Winslow-GBEA
Betty Kossik-Retired

Fiscal Note: None