

2022 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: 2021 WEAC Representative Assembly

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #2

The WEAC endorses Mike Glabere's reelection to an At-Large ESP seat on the NEA Board of Directors.

Submitted by: Nick Sirek, Eau Claire Association of Educators

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #3

Hybrid Events Study Group

WEAC will form a virtual study group to research the feasibility and logistics of doing more events in a hybrid format. The group's findings and recommendations will be reported to the 2023 WEAC RA.

Rationale:

Making more WEAC events a hybrid experience would make them more accessible and equitable for our members. Expanding access and equity builds our capacity and strengthens our union.

Submitted by: Scott Ellingson, Hudson Education Association

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #4

WEAC will use its collective resources to lobby for a change to WI Stats 115.42(1).(b) and WI Admin. Code PI 37.03(1).(b) such that the conditionality caused by the current structure of the Law (and its Administration) is eliminated. This small adjustment to the Law and the Administrative Code would result in NBCTs who did not *receive* initial reimbursement under 115.42(1).(b) [and Admin Code PI 37.03(1).(a)] still being able to qualify for the subsequent DPI Stipend (annually) under 115.42(2).(a) or under 115.42(2).(c) and would address the current injustice winding through the middle of current practice/administration of the grant.

Possible Effects could include:

- 1) Improving Reimbursement by districts (or other 3rd parties) as an organizing endeavor for Local EAs
- 2) Attracting out-of-state NBCTs to Wisconsin
- 3) Retaining current NBCTs in Wisconsin
- 4) Magnifying any and all demonstrable effects of the NBCT process for Teachers who engage with it by removing barrier(s) to Wisconsin's current incentive program.
- 5) Bringing attention (both inside and outside the teaching profession) to the NBCT process
- 6) Cultivate/Improve the capacity for the kind(s) of NBCT lobbying initiatives that the NEA is currently grant-funding for WEAC
- 7) Other unconsidered effects.

Background:

Under Wisconsin Statues 115.42(1).(b), a teacher that achieves National Board Teacher Certification may apply for a reimbursement for the expenses associated with initial certification up to the amount of \$2000. The application for this grant must be made in the same year as initial certification is achieved.

Under Wisconsin Statues 115.42(2), the NBCT may then apply, annually, for a stipend of \$2500 (unless they qualify under a different subsection for \$5000 annually).

Under PI 37.03(1).(a), An initial NBCT may apply for the reimbursement grant with stipulations.

These grants (such as they are) represent a significant incentive for teachers to endure the rigors of the National Board Certification Process in our state. The benefits and effects of the process are well-documented and may or may not require further elucidation at a later time.

The Problem:

Under PI 37.03(1).(b), a NBCT may (only) apply for the annual grant [under 115.42(2)] if they

received the initial reimbursement grant under 115.42(1).(b). This presents a situational conditionality that is problematic for a number of reasons:

- 1) An NBCT may have received monies or grants from 3rd parties (including from their school district) to pay for the assessment fees. If (And when) this is the case, the NBCT does not currently qualify for the initial DPI Grant under 115.42(1).(b).
- 2) An NBCT may have initially achieved their National Board Teacher Certification while in residence in another state. If (And when) this is the case, the NBCT does not currently qualify for the initial DPI Grant under 115.42(1).(b).
- 3) There may be other unconsidered conditions that might disqualify an NBCT for the initial DPI Grant under 115.42(1).(b).

In ANY of the 3 cases cited above, not qualifying (or, more specifically, not *receiving*) the initial DPI Grant under 115.42(1).(b), prevents the affected NBCT from applying for (or qualifying for) the subsequent annual DPI grant under 115.42(2).(a) or under 115.42(2).(c).

Submitted by: Lyman E. Elliott III, NBCT (as an individual)

Fiscal Note: None

New Business Item #5

SWIB Divestment from Fossil Fuels

WEAC supports actions that call on the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) to divest from fossil fuel companies. Such actions include, but are not limited to, WEAC electronic communication with members in support of divestment, lobbying the SWIB and the Wisconsin legislature, and collaboration with other interested unions and organizations.

Rationale:

The State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB), created in 1951, is responsible for managing the assets of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), the State Investment Fund (SIF), and other state trust funds. As of December 31, 2021, SWIB managed more than \$165.6 billion in assets.

The SWIB manages assets that include numerous investments in fossil fuel companies. These investments are estimated to total at least \$1 billion.

The science is clear that climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, is largely driven by carbon dioxide emissions, and its effects will increasingly depend on the extent to which action is taken now to reduce emissions and avoid surpassing dangerous temperature thresholds.

As the effects of climate change become more apparent and more governments adopt policies to limit carbon pollution, the carbon resources that fossil fuel companies currently count as assets will shift to

liabilities. Studies by analysts, such as the London School of Economics, HSBC, and Impact Asset Management, demonstrate that fossil fuel companies may be overvalued by as much as 40 to 60 percent. This overvaluation is referred to as the "carbon bubble." When it bursts it could cause financial turmoil similar to previous overvaluations (for example, the 2007 "housing bubble").

The SWIB must exercise its fiduciary responsibility to protect educators' and other public employees' retirement money. This responsibility includes the elimination of risky investments

Submitted by: Pete Knotek; Angelina Cruz, Racine Educators United

Fiscal Note: None