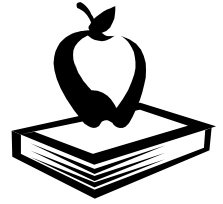


B.R.E.A.D

Bridgewater-Raynham Educational Association Digest

April 2007



Volume XIII No. 3

MTA Legislative Issues-

You have probably already received, and will be receiving more mailings from the MTA in regard to legislature that will affect us all. The first mailing had two detachable postcards addressed to your senator and representative asking for their support of Chapter 70 state funding for school districts. Please take a moment to sign them, attach a \$.24 stamp, and drop them in the mail. If you prefer, just give the signed postcards to your building representative and the BREA will pay the postage.

You will also receive a mailing about the Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA). At present a retiree receives only a 3% raise on the first \$12,000 of their retirement benefits. This results to less than one dollar per day in increase! Legislation to boost that to 3% on the first \$16,000 is now in the House. The MTA is filing legislation to try to increase that amount to \$25,000. Sending the postcards has a great effect on legislators if they receive them in a noticeable quantity.

Even better than a postcard, take the following steps:

- 1) log on to www.masteacher.org
- 2) scroll down to "Legislative Action Alerts"
- 3) click "Hope begins with you"
- 4) click "Legislative Alerts and Updates"
- 5) scroll down to "State Legislative" and you will find the headings for each of the above topics. Click the heading and follow the simple directions for sending a message to your legislators



Did you know the COLA for retirement in the Social Security system is placed on the first \$25,000? It has been that way for many years. One already may get financially penalized if one qualifies for retirement from social security and MTRS. So reduced retirement money and a smaller COLA on top of it. Doesn't seem fair, does it? Contact your legislators during the first week of April.

BREA endorses candidates

The BREA hosted a "meet the candidates" day at their last executive board meeting on March 13th. All candidates who accepted our invitation had the chance to speak and take questions from the audience. Following their addresses the executive board voted to endorse the following candidates:

Selectman (Bridgewater)- Christopher Flynn
Selectman (Raynham)- Joseph Pacheco
School Committee (Raynham)- James Zahakos

Each of these candidates expressed a positive attitude toward the necessary financial support of the B-R school district so that it may continue to improve. Bullet voting (voting for just one candidate when there is the option to vote for more) is helpful in electing a particular individual.

In assisting these candidates in their campaigns volunteers are needed. You have most likely been approached by a member of the Political Actions committee asking for your help. Displaying a lawn sign for a candidate if you live in either town, or holding a sign at a location, can have a great impact on voters. If you would like to volunteer please contact Jim Osenkowski at JasCore@AOL.com with "volunteer" as the subject or call him at 508-697-6968, ext. 6212.

50/50 Raffle Winners

FEBRUARY 14 50/50 BREA RAFFLE

Kathy Smith	MES-North
Marla Sohegan	RMS
Nicole Boulay	MES-North
Lil Holbrook	MES-North
Jackie Yafrate	Williams
Christine Madden	LaLiberte
Lisa Burns	Williams
Jim Osenkowski	Williams
John Dillon	BR-HS
Bill Barber	BR-HS
Joyce Botti	Williams
Christine Altieri	MES-Central

Total Collected \$623.00 divided by 2 = 311.50 payout

John Eggers from Horace Mann Educated Financial Solutions came to the March Executive Board meeting to explain the services he can provide. He provides workshops to schools regarding retirement. The company offers free lesson ideas at www.reacheverychild.com



Member news



Julie Mitchell (Laliberte) had a baby.

Shirley Wood (BRRHS) received Teacher of the Year from Wal-Mart. Congratulations, Shirley!

Swim Lessons



Learn to swim in your backyard pool.

Private and small group lessons are available. Call for details. Robin Murray 508-697-9674

I believe that learning to swim is an essential life skill.

Contacts

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