

Arlington Education Association

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Teaching. Learning. Leading.

ACTION REPORT

APS BUDGET: FACT VS. FICTION

Members are hearing many rumors, but very few facts about the forthcoming APS 2010-11 budget. **FACTS:**

February 23: The Superintendent's FY 10-11 *proposed budget* will be presented to the public and staff (Show up!).

Feb 24: A snapshot of the *proposed budget* will be e-mailed to all APS staff.

Feb 26: A Summary of the budget appears in "NewsCheck".

Mar. 9 Public Hearing on the Budget (Show up!).

Apr 8 School Board's Proposed Budget presented

(Show up!)

Apr. 29 School Board Adopts Budget (Show up!)

Between February 23 and April 29, the School Board will hold budget work sessions. This is the time to **SHOW UP**, get informed and contact the school board to oppose and/or support budget items.

FICTION: The school board has decided to eliminate post-retirement sick and annual leave payout. This has not been determined- as yet.

Fiction: The Employee Tuition Program which permits

employees' out-of-boundary students to attend APS schools has been eliminated. The Board is reviewing this program, but nothing has been determined-yet.

Fiction: The 403(b) contribution will be eliminated. Nothing has been decided-yet.

Fiction: Changes made to the proposed budget will take effect before the end of the school year (June 25). **NO!** The final budget adopted by the School Board is the budget for the *next* school year-2010-2011.

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TIME TO REPRESENT!

Show up or shut up. Rude, but true. If you want the APS budget to reflect positive outcomes for APS staff, you need to help make it happen. What are you doing? You can't sit on your hands and do nothing. Show up and represent at one or all of the following important events. See and be seen! Let AEA know you are going, and we'll buy you dinner!

APS School Board meetings- Thursdays, January 21, February 4 & 25, March 11 & 25, April 8 & 29. All meetings begin at 7:30 pm in the Ed Center Board room.

Budget Sessions: Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16 & 18. at the Ed Center, 8:30pm room 101.

RETIREMENT SEMINAR

The AEA-sponsored Retirement Seminar takes place Tuesday, April 6th from 4:00 to 7:00pm at Kenmore Middle School. VEA Retirement Specialist Carol Donahue and APS Personnel staff will help you prepare for imminent retirement or plan for a future prosperous retirement. **RESERVATIONS are REQUIRED** email page@aeava.org.

APS 2010-11 SCHOOL CALENDAR: What do you want?

Questions to Consider:

1. Do Elementary Teachers want Early Release on the last three days of school?
2. Do Elementary Teachers want Friday, 6/10 as an Early Release day for grade preparation?
3. Should Middle Schools have Early Release on Thur. 2/3 or Friday 2/4?

4. In order to end the school year sooner, would you be willing to give up Columbus Day, Veterans Day or Presidents Day?

AEA President Shelley Jennings and AEA Executive Board High School Representative Wanda Perkins (Yorktown) represent you on the APS Calendar Committee, which

also comprises APS administrators and parents. The Calendar Committee works to achieve a consensus calendar which is then recommended to the Superintendent. Dr. Murphy accepts the calendar as is, or makes modifications, and submits his recommendations to the School Board. The School Board may make (continued on page two)



SNOW DAYS

You play, you pay. While the three snow days prior to Winter Break were fun, if there are any more snow days, delayed openings or early school closings, instructional hours may fall below the state minimum for some APS students. Why? The Code of Virginia mandates a minimum school year of 180 days or 990 hours.

Make-up days for days lost due to inclement weather would be as follows:

Elementary: One to 5 days lost-the first three days lost would not be made up. The 4th day lost would be made up on April 5th or May 31. The 5th day lost would be made-up June 28.

Middle School: 1-5 days lost-the 1st 5 days are not made up. Three make-up days are built into the calendar; and 2 equivalent student attendance days are built into the calendar by adding 4 instructional minutes to the end of the day.

High School: The first 5 days lost are not made up. Four make-up days are built into calendar; and 1 equivalent student attendance day is built into the calendar by adding 2 instructional minutes to the end of the school day.

THE PROBLEM:

If Non-FLES early release elementary schools have

additional snow days, or delayed/early closings that add up to an instructional day; they will need to make-up those days because the December snow caused 3 days of school to be lost. Should we have an excess of snow whereby the make up days built into the calendar are insufficient, other measures may be considered by the Superintendent to enable schools with an instructional hours deficit to make them up. Hours could be made up at the end of the school year, as has been done in the past. Alternatively, the Superintendent could consider other measures which would provide the requisite instructional time well in advance of the SOL testing window. The benefit of this approach would be additional instructional days pre-SOL and ending the school year before July.

Some media outlets incorrectly reported that if Governor McDonnell declares an emergency, school systems would be exempt from making up lost days. This is inaccurate. School systems must demonstrate they have made every effort to makeup the days before the state of emergency exemption would take effect. AEA is monitoring any proposed changes in the school calendar and will ensure they are equitable.

LIBERAL LEAVE

Did you know? Twelve month employees may take annual leave or leave without pay under emergency conditions (including extreme weather) without prior approval of supervisors. Liberal leave shall be in effect for the period declared by the Superintendent or designee. Sick leave may be used in accordance with School Board policy [35-5](#) and [PIP 35-8.3](#).

10-11 School Calendar (cont'd)

additional modifications and votes to adopt its calendar. All employees have a stake in the calendar. The next Calendar Committee meeting is **2/25**. Send your questions and comments to president@aeava.org before 2/24.

APS 2010-2011 BUDGET: FACT VS. FICTON (cont'd from page 1)

The 10-11 budget takes effect July 1, 2010.

FICTION: The School Board adopts the Superintendent's proposed budget without changes. **FACT:** As previously stated in this publication, the Superintendent presents a *proposed budget*. The School Board uses the *proposed budget as a basis for discussion*.

The Board doesn't always agree with the Superintendent's proposals and uses its authority to make changes. It then seeks public comment on its budget. Changes and

modifications are made, and then the school board adopts its budget.

Don't Listen to the Rumors. Keep alert to AEA communications to learn the facts. **WHAT IS AEA DOING?** AEA is in constant communication with the Superintendent and School Board in advocacy for YOU. AEA consists of 3 paid personnel. The Executive Board and Delegates are member volunteers. YOU must do your PART! Attend Board

meetings, or watch the online video or read the minutes. TAKE ACTION: Write the Board in objection or support of proposed budget items. SHOW UP to Board meetings and Budget Work Sessions because our presence in numbers presents a strong face to the Board. You are AEA. What are YOU doing?

Earn \$20/hour!

Make a little extra \$\$ during these tough economic times. The U.S. Government is seeking part-time, temporary **Census Takers**. The pay is \$20 an hour and includes paid training. The hours are flexible. For more information, including a practice test, contact Census Bureau Recruiter (and AEA-Retired member Karen Scheer: Scheer4@comcast.net, or call 1-800-861-2010 IMMEDIATELY. The practice test will be offered in the evenings at several APS schools and Arlington Public Libraries.

BOARD CERTIFIED EXCELLENCE!

Congratulations to **AEA members Colette Fraley (Wakefield), Mike Humphreys (Yorktown/Key), Jeff Politzer (Kenmore), Elizabeth Thomas (Yorktown), Amy Slavin (Glebe), and Gordon Laurie (W-L)** who recently achieved National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Their accomplishment will also yield financial reward in the form of a step increase on the pay plan through APS' Career Advancement Program (CAP). The state of Virginia also offers a bonus to board certified teachers, but its funding is in jeopardy. VEA continues its advocacy to protect this incentive bonus that recognizes teachers who "go the extra mile" for excel-

AEA WORKSHOPS

BECOME A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER!

Presented by Board-certified AEA members Linda Forehand and Greg Chapuis, on Tuesday, February 16, 4:30-6:00pm (including Q&A). Learn what you can do to further your professional and financial growth. Location: [AEA Office](#) (address in lower margin).

LEGAL BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP for YOUR PERSONAL LIFE

Presented by Dena Rosenkranz, VEA Attorney on April 20 at 4:30pm at Kenmore Middle School.

Learn what AEA/VEA/NEA Legal Benefits are available to you and how to best utilize these resources beyond your professional life.

Registration is required for all workshops.