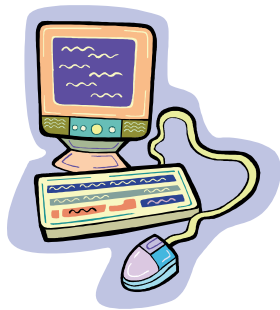


DTA Dispatch

Technology Update

USD #232 hired Brad Sandt as a consultant to assess our technology in the district. Mr. Sandt is the District Tech Director for Parkville. He also runs K12 ITC.



Mr. Sandt has been asked to tour the district to see what

we already have, what is working, what is not, and what we need for the future. He is also going to meet with

teachers from each building to hear their concerns, successes, and needs in regards to technology.

On a different note, the district is in the process of interviewing new potential building technicians. As mentioned in October, several quit earlier in the year leaving the technology department short-handed. Please keep that in mind if you are having to wait a little longer than normal to get a response to your TMRs. They are working diligently to keep us up and running.

2011-12 Building Reps and Officers

Officers:

President– Nikki Leisten
Vice-President– Julie Woerdehoff
Secretary– Cindy Williams
Treasurer– Janice Wilcox

Building Reps:

DHS– Lisa Pelkey, Donna Rhodes
MVHS– Angie DalBello, Laurie Deuschle, Jeff Wieland
LTMS– Caroline Friday, Ed Wilcox

MCMS– Ashleigh Garcia, Melissa Eker
MTMS– Chelsea Cassell
BE– Lisa Miller-Best, Holly Schreiber, Katie Lamons
CCE– Mindy Leas, Connie Nash
HE– Diane Enger, April Regnier
ME– Jayma Beadle, Susie Holloway
PRE– Denise Porras, Kerri Ptacek
RE– Traci Seyb, Richelle Hodges
SE– Dani Durand, Katie Millard

Upcoming Events:

- > February 1st– DTA Exec meeting
- > February 13th– School Board meeting
- > March 5th– School Board meeting
- > March 7th– DTA Exec meeting
- > April 9th– School Board meeting
- > April 21st-22nd– KNEA Representative Assembly in Topeka

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Notes from Nikki



2012 KPERS Petition Drive Project

Goal: to PRESERVE the state retirement system as a DEFINED BENEFIT plan and to ENSURE it is appropriately funded to provide earned benefits in the future.

Strategy: to provide all Johnson County legislators with overwhelming visual evidence of the number of public school employees in Johnson County who support preserving and strengthening KPERS.

Tactic: to have every public school employee in Johnson County sign a petition of support provided in each public school district building as well as Johnson County Community College and the Kansas School for the Deaf.

Why am I being asked to sign a petition?

- The Kansas legislature commissioned a study of the current KPERS system to address a large unfunded liability (deficit) in the current system.
- The commission has received numerous recommendations to place future public employees in a defined contribution plan.
- The commission has also received testimony that diverting future employees to a defined contribution plan will make the unfunded liability (deficit) larger.

What will happen with this petition?

- Copies of the petition from around Johnson County will be copied and sent to all Johnson County legislators once the legislative session starts.

Am I required to sign the petition?

- No. Your participation is voluntary.

Remember
to wear
your DTA
shirt on the
first
Wednesday
every
month to
show unity
in the
district!

Treasurer's Report

Current balance: \$11,431.70

Contact person: Janice Wilcox

Membership Information

Current membership: 317

If members would like to purchase a black DTA polo, just let Katie know. They are around \$20, but the more we order, the lower the cost per polo.

Contact person: Katie Millard

HR Info

- You can now change Qualifying Events (birth of a child, divorce, etc...) on your own using HR In Touch (the icon is on your main menu in the portal).
- If you need your HRInTouch password reset, contact Gabby Philbrook.
- Next year Gabby will send out notices if something on your insurance plan changes.
- Employees with dependants on your plan- BCBS and Delta Dental will both provide benefits to dependants until they reach the age of 26.
- HR came up with guidelines regarding teachers' absences during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Ask your building rep if you would like to see a copy of the new guidelines.



Other Items Mentioned at the Meeting...

-Some members asked if we could participate in the Youth Friends program again. Dr. Sumner said the program is very expensive. The district is looking into trying to create its own similar program, but they are focusing on higher priorities at the moment.

-Lachelle Sigg sent out a survey regarding Morgan Hunter’s Aesop system. If you are having trouble with the sub request system, please contact her.

-Do not let your teaching license lapse. Remember it takes 6-8 weeks

for the state to process the paperwork.

-65% of members took the negotiations survey.

-DTA was able to negotiate debit cards for Flex accounts (American Fidelity).

-We are 3 senators short of losing majority vote for Education.

-Only the DTA executive officers see the negotiation surveys that we send out. Feel free to express your true feelings.

Member Benefits

-Complimentary Life Insurance is available for all members through NEA.

-KNEA scholarships are available for single moms and students.

- www.neamb.com is currently offering:

Johnny’s Tavern: Print the coupon for 20% off food items.

McDonald’s on 66th St in Shawnee: coupon for free sausage biscuit or sausage McMuffin with purchase of medium McCafe Specialty Coffee and coupon for free medium soft drink with purchase of large sandwich. Just search Shawnee and print the coupons.

Dickey’s BBQ Pit: Print the coupons for free big BBQ pulled pork sandwich with purchase of Rib plate and \$5 off any family pack.

Good News

DHS– The DHS volleyball team won league for the 1st time in 33 years!

- Parker Riley and Philip Kaul won 2 debate tournaments. Parker is one debate away from having his Academic All-American.

-DHS put on the musical “South Pacific” in November. They had close to 70 students involved in the production.

HE– Horizon kicked off their yearly reading program in November. The students are super excited to earn

prizes for reading at home! Horizon was also chosen as a Chiefs’ Red Friday Spirit School. They were awarded an assembly with special guests KC Wolf and #99 Amon Gordon. They played games with the kids and talked about staying active and playing 60 minutes every day.

MCMS– On November 12th, Mill Creek participated in a Science Olympiad competition with 33 other schools. Students brought home medals in a number of events.



DTA-
Strengthening the Teaching Profession at USD 232 through informed and involved members





De Soto Teacher's Association

We are on the web!
www.desototeachers.org

Committee Members

Read Across America– Kathy McBride

Newsletter– Jayma Beadle

Membership– Katie Millard

Negotiations– Cheron Tiffany

Political Action (PAC)- Riki Kisner

Calendar– Laurie Deuschle

Nominations– Susan Slater

Scholarships– Angie Dal Bello and Donna Rhodes

Member Benefits– **open**

Teacher Appreciation– **open**

* If you would be interested in being the Member Benefits Chair or Teacher Appreciation Chair, contact Nikki Leisten. If you are interested in serving on the Political Action Committee, contact Riki Kisner.

Our KNEA Contact Person:

Charlyn Shepard
Charlyn.shepard@knea.org
 11015 W 75th Terrace
 Shawnee, KS 66214-2908
 913-268-4005

Good News continued....

MVHS– Mill Valley was chosen by Channel 5 as a Cool School and got to be on a Friday morning broadcast. Over 1100 students showed up before 5 AM and joined a 3 hour “pep assembly.” Students also helped organize a blood drive and did Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat.

ME– Mize won the \$50,000 Pepsi grant!!! Preparations are being made to purchase 23 Smart boards and a laptop cart with 30 laptops. Thank you to everyone who voted. They hope to help other schools in the district utilize the monthly Pepsi grant giveaways to win money for their schools, too.

SE– Starside held a successful Walk-a-thon that raised around \$8,830! They also had a great turnout at their family BBQ dinner and Bingo Night in November.

