

From the President: We Have a Tentative Agreement! – Save February 15th!

On Thursday, January 28, the BEA Negotiating Team and the Braintree School Committee reached a tentative agreement on a new four-year contract (technically a one year contract and a three year contract).

The ratification meeting will take place at the East Middle School auditorium on Thursday, February 15th at 3:30 P.M. You must be present to vote. There are no provisions in the BEA by-Laws for absentee voting. Please plan on attending this very important meeting. (The BEA board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, February 9th to discuss the tentative agreement and then conduct a non-binding vote. The results of this vote will be reported at the BEA Ratification Meeting on the 15th.) All BEA members and agency fee individuals will have the written tentative agreement at least 5 days in advance of the ratification meeting.

Mary thanks to all of the members of the current BEA Negotiating Team for their work on behalf of the BEA. Negotiating a municipal contract in this economic climate has been challenging, yet the team members' professionalism, commitment, and tenacity were admirable throughout the process.

The members of the current BEA Negotiating Team are:

Unit A – teachers, guidance counselors, and school psychologists:

Holly Belmonte(chair)
Christine Giacomuzzi (BEA V.P.)
Kevin Coyne, Cindy McAleese, Elaine Rooney,
Michael Stewart, and Kathy Tuffy

Unit B – administrators: Nancy Maymihan

Unit C – nurses: Regina Sullivan

Unit D – secretaries: Marie Fontaine

Unit E – para-educators: Virginia Holmes

Unit F – Title I: Janice Molloy

Unit G and H – Physical and Occupational

Therapists and assistants – Janice Garrigan

Ex Officio – Larry Kramer

The team would also like to thank Dorine Levasseur, our MTA field rep, for her vast knowledge, experience, and service as our main voice at the table.

I hope to see you all on February 15th at East at 3:30 P.M.

Yours truly,



Larry S. Kramer

Do "Longevity" Payments Count Toward Retirement?

YES. Some of you may have heard otherwise, given certain changes in the retirement law passed at the beginning of 2009. But the ordinary longevity the BEA has in its contract was NOT, as a result of these changes, excluded for counting toward your retirement benefit. It appears the Braintree Retirement Board is taking a conservative approach to this matter, on advice of its legal counsel, and is telling prospective retirees that the longevity is not being counted until certain regulations and/or court cases have resolved the question. This does not affect employees retiring under the Teachers Retirement Board, BUT if any prospective retiree is told his or her regular longevity will not be calculated into their retirement benefit, BE SURE TO CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY.

Quincy, 3 BR, fully renovated in and out, new bathroom & kitchen, new paint & floors, laundry (washer hook up/dryer avail.), no pets, no smoking \$1,400 per month. Utilities not included. Please contact 617-509-8304 or reb.southwick@verizon.net.

Properties for Rent

Apt. in Quincy, 1 bedroom (large), 1 & 1/2 baths, off street parking, laundry facility and storage. Located one mile from the Braintree line! Available March 01, \$925.00 per month. For more info. and/or viewing, call 617-799-6800.

2009 Dues Summary for Taxes

Units A, B, C, E, G–

Jan-May: 26 x \$12.27 = \$467.67

Nov-Dec: 9 x \$12.27 = \$110.73

Total = \$674.40

Unit D–

301.98 + 129.42 = \$431.40

Unit E–

211.52 + 93.35 = \$305.67

Payroll News

As of last week, there is no longer a week's delay between your paycheck deductions going to any other bank or the Quincy Credit Union. You might have noticed a double deduction last week, which was a one-time event to take care of this change. If you have any questions please call Melissa Mortuary in the treasurer's office at 798-794-8131.

**"Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson**

BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

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Opinions expressed in signed articles are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the BEA Officers, Board of Directors, or the BEA office. MTA/NEA Locals are mentioned regardless whether a credit line for the BEA is included.