

President's Message: Merit Pay, Teacher Evaluations, and MCAS.

Happy New Year and I hope this year is a great one for all of us in the BEA.

MCAS time of year is fast approaching. It's noteworthy for many of us to hear that the MTA Board of Directors (along with Paul Toner, MTA President) has endorsed tying teacher evaluation and merit pay raises to MCAS scores. Clearly tying standardized test scores to teacher evaluations and salary is a controversial

I am against the idea and if the BEA Negotiating Team is against the idea it has the right to say so at any future bargaining table. This would only be necessary if MCAS scores, merit pay, and teacher evaluations are brought up by the Braintree School Committee.

The majority of our dues dollars goes to the MTA. The services that are provided as a result of that payment are invaluable. I could fill this front page with the services we have through payment of dues. However, while we all benefit greatly from our state association, the MTA does not speak directly for the BEA or any other local teacher's union in collective bargaining.

The BEA is one of several hundred autonomous local labor unions affiliated with the MTA. These unions bargain individually with an independent school committee. Our MTA field representative (currently Doreen Levasseur) may work for the MTA, but as is the case across the state, that individual field rep takes direction from the local negotiating team.

The evaluation tool is a very important part of our working conditions. It's included in our contract. Through collective bargaining between the BEA Negotiating team and the Braintree School Committee, it is determined how the evaluation process will work. Compensation, in the form of salaries and stipends, is also decided through the bargaining process.

The current contract between the Braintree Education Association and the Braintree School Committee contains no language relating MCAS results to teacher salaries, nor is there any mention of merit pay. As a matter of fact, there is no mention of any specific standardized test.

Wages, hours, and working conditions are, by law, the domain of collective bargaining. The BEA's collective strength and solidarity is our strongest tool at the bargaining table. Contract negotiations in Braintree are always interesting. I can only imagine that the next round of bargaining will prove the same.

Maybe you agree with MTA's stand on merit pay, MCAS, and teacher evaluations, and maybe you do not. Contact Paul Toner, MTA President, and share your feelings. His business phone is 617-742-7950 and business email is ptoner@massteacher.org.

Yours truly,



Larry Kramer, President
Braintree Education Association

Belated Kudos for many members of the BEA from MTA leaders!

(These word are copied directly from a thank-you note addressed to the Braintree Education Association)

The November 2 election was a huge victory for public schools, colleges, and universities and for our communities in Massachusetts. Thank-you so much for all you did to help.

Governor Deval Patrick’s substantial win can be attributed to three factors: the many things he has accomplished despite the national recession, his positive vision for the future, and the hard work of his many supporters, including thousands of MTA members and the MTA Staff. MTA members were also important participants in the election of numerous pro-education candidates in legislative and congressional races.

Your efforts in the campaign to defeat Question 3 were likewise pivotal. The MTA was a major player in the coalition that opposed the sales tax cut and, along with NEA, the biggest single contributor. In the end, the ill-conceived ballot initiative lost decisively.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank-you.

Together we did!

Sincerely,

Paul Toner, MTA President
Timothy D. Sullivan, MTA Vice President
Ann Clarke, MTA Executive Director-Treasurer

TAX INFO:

Breakdown of dues by Units:

Units A, B, C, F & G: \$713.00
Unit D: \$465.50
Units E & H: \$322.00

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHILD:

The main mission of The Massachusetts Child is to help local associations help students succeed in school. The Mass Child reimburses for expenses that directly benefit students in crisis and make it possible for them to succeed in school.

Examples include:

- Basic medical exams
- Book, supplies and materials
- Educational field trips
- Prescriptions
- Outwear, clothing or shoes

If you would like to see if a particular student qualifies for payment of one of the above items through this program please contact Jane Bagley (nurse at Hollis), Braintree’s coordinator of The Massachusetts Child program.

OUR CONTRACTS!

THE BEA contracts are on the way. I apologize for the length of time that these contracts are taking to get typed, printed, and delivered to you.

Larry Kramer

BEA Dates To Remember:

*Friday May 13th & Saturday May 14th
MTA Annual Meeting in Boston.*

The BEA is entitled to thirteen delegates. It would be great if we could get more folk to attend this year’s MTA Annual Meeting. The BEA pays for the expense. An Association Day will be granted by Dr. Kurzberg for that Friday. You will have a most interesting experience learning more about the workings of the BEA, NCTA, NEA and of course, the MTA!

*Tuesday, June 7th
BEA Annual Meeting*

Please plan on attending the **BEA Annual Meeting** to be held at the **Braintree High School Auditorium** at **3:45pm** on **June 7th, 2011**. Important business of the BEA will include the election of officers for 2011-2013

BRAINTREE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MESSAGE

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