

Hello MIEA Members,

I hope your week back from our MISD spring break has gone well. If you are like me then I am sure it had really bright spots, bumps in the road and lots of opportunities for reflection and learning...

Here's my share for the week: [Click this Link](#). We have some local stars from our UniServ council and MI in it.

This week I attended two important community meetings; the PTA Board meeting for 2 hours which I felt was a positive meeting in which parents, via their PTA presidents, were able to ask questions and get answers from Donna and the administration team. There were some hard questions, but Donna handled them well. One of the messages from the meeting that was very clear, though, is that many families do want their children to have access to teachers via online platforms. They feel their children need and want to see their teachers and peers and interact with you online. As we continue contemplating and adjusting how our online school looks, it is clear making contact with students and their families should be our priority and my hope is that including para-educators and support staff will be an increasing part of what each educator does to individualize and make personal contact with their students.

Entering School Buildings for Student Supplies

Though I understand some of you want to go into your buildings now, it is not an emergency, nor safe for you or your students to go into your building right now and pack up student belongings and give them to students. **Our governor has mandated that we stay at home unless we have an emergency or need to grocery shop. This task does not qualify!** Please understand that the longer it takes for people to get this message, the longer we will all be at home doing online teaching and learning. **Stay home so we can allow MISD to implement a full plan for how MISD will prevent you and our students spreading or getting Covid-19.** We should not be in the buildings touching student belongings until we are provided gloves, have a mask and there is clear plan for how student materials will be distributed. In addition, there is no clear reason why we would need to go into classrooms now and pack them up. Please focus instead on the instruction you are creating for your students. Our classrooms are not going anywhere and the custodial staff have no need for you to go in now and do anything. You are just putting them at risk and making work for them as they will then need to sanitize where you have been.

Classified Members

Classified members, you have experienced a lot of changes in your working conditions; please keep me abreast of what you are being asked to do in your job during this transition to online learning. Communicate with your site reps. if you have questions or concerns. It is my understanding that bus drivers have a schedule and are now being asked to drop off learning packets and may in the future be delivering student materials that were left in their desks or classroom. Custodians are currently assisting with cleaning at the Boys and Girls Club which has taken on the responsibilities of our district first responder and front line workers'

childcare. Our para-educators will increasingly be invited to work with our certificated staff in their online work with students. If you need technology help to participate fully, please let Andreeves Ronser know. All the para-educators should now have access to their own iPad and the necessary apps to participate in Zoom meetings and/or Google hang-outs/classroom. If you need help with this reach out to Andreeves or your technology team and let them know.

Certificated Members

Certificated members, there were a lot of changes in your routines as well this week and the one thing I'm sure of is that change is going to continue. It is very important that you are making regular contact with your students, attending weekly one hour staff meetings, attending your PLC meetings and attending other meetings that your admin. has duly asked you to participate in (unless you have conflicts). Our Memorandum of Understanding and Collective Bargaining Agreement give you the freedom to establish routines and delivery methods that work best for your students and yourself, but that means that you need to communicate clearly what your expectations are to your families and create a clear routine for your students to follow. Families are seeking clarity, consistency and regular interaction with you online for their children. Our Memorandum of Understanding contemplated these issues and tried to reflect the trust that MIEA and MISD have in your professionalism. I know we will all provide educational and social/emotional contact as best as we can with the formats that we now have access to in our district. If you need help with the technology we are being asked to utilize, please reach out to Kara Millsap, Julie Hovind, your fellow educators (Stephanie John-Lewis for example will include you on her Zoom meetings to observe her class meetings and see how well that can work- just email her.).

WEA UPDATES this week:

Stay tuned for grading guidance and waivers from OSPI

Early next week, OSPI is expected to provide guidance on "no harm to kids" grading during the COVID-19 closures. WEA members helped create the guidelines. We also expect guidelines on consistency with higher ed transcripts. We have no definitive update on waiver days.

WEA Board action on 2020 Representative Assembly

The WEA Board met Wednesday afternoon to discuss action around this year's canceled RA. New Business Items can be brought to WEA anytime. The Board already discussed 13 NBIs and approved 11. The board will take up NBIs but will wait for the next RA for any consideration of constitution and bylaws or continuing resolution changes. Fundraising strategies are being developed for both WEA-PAC and the WEA Children's Fund since a vast amount of annual fundraising is usually done at RA.

Mandatory reporting reminder

WEA General Counsel Aimee Iverson asks us to remind mandatory reporters (all certificated staff) that if they are aware of or have reasonable suspicion of child abuse, it must be reported. [Read more.](#)

Myths, RIFs and other bits

Remember to focus on what we know, not on speculation. Rumors about big cuts are beginning to circulate but we know school districts often react prematurely. K-12 Basic Education is protected. No cuts to state funding have yet occurred. The Legislature must reconvene to do that and until that happens, there is no way to know how big or small the state non-basic ed funding cuts will be. See WEA lobbyist Lorrell Noahr's [powerpoint on past K-12 funding patterns and practices during recessions](#). Keep an eye out for more information on this next week. Report any word on RIFs to [Rebecca Jaffe](#).

WEA Educational Offerings:

*Our schedule of courses (with the registration link) for the week of 4/20/2020 is attached (both as a pdf and png file). Registration is open. Clock hours will be provided. Courses are free. The first 500 registrants will receive a confirmation with the Zoom link. **Save** the confirmation email to access the course! Since courses are provided in real-time, live and include small group discussions and opportunities for engagement, course capacity is limited to 500 registrants. We are unable to offer a waitlist. As a reminder, since these offerings are funded through a grant from OSPI, you do not have to be a WEA member to attend.*

Weekly flyers with course schedules and registration information are posted by Wednesday of each week and are available here: <https://bit.ly/3bfETDh>

[NEA Link](#) -worth reading

[NEA Educational offerings](#)

<http://neatoday.org/school-me/>

[School Me - NEA Today](#)

Life Hacks, Tips, and Advice for New Educators. NEA is dedicated to helping educators at every stage of their career. The new School Me series is made specifically with new and early educators in mind.

neatoday.org

As always, if you have a question or need help with something in regard to working conditions etc., please do not hesitate to reach out to your building reps. or to me.

Stay well and informed.

Sincerely,

Sally