

# The LMEA

# Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core  
for LMEA members.

December 2011

## ***Your Postcards, Calls, and Emails Worked! Voucher Bill is Stalled in Harrisburg***

As of the writing of this newsletter, the legislation to introduce school vouchers in Pennsylvania has hit a roadblock in Harrisburg. After sailing through the state Senate in late October, the state House of Representatives has decided not to bring it up for a vote before the holidays due to the overwhelming correspondence being received that indicates the polling is correct: two-thirds of Pennsylvanians do not want public tax dollars to go toward private school vouchers! The fight is not over, however, as those in favor of vouchers have invested too much of their own money to be deterred permanently. We must be vigilant and ready should things change [again] and vouchers make another run for passage. The PSEA website is a good place to go for the latest news, and should action be necessary we will contact you through our email blasts.

## ***Back to the Bargaining Table in January, Presentations Planned This Spring***

The day is approaching in January when the LMEA will sit down across the table with the district and get to work on negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement to succeed the current contract that expires at the end of June. The Combined Negotiations Committee has been meeting regularly, and will review the results of our recent online survey to help shape the union's initial proposal. Every member needs to have a good understanding of the current bargaining environment and what to expect in the months ahead. To that end, we have prepared a very important presentation that we will be bringing out to every building and department. It will last about 30 minutes, with time provided after for questions and answers. **Every member is strongly encouraged to attend these meetings.** If you cannot make the date scheduled for your building, you are welcome to attend any of the others. Please mark your calendars:

Penn Wynne ES.....Jan. 17 @ 3:45	Harriton HS.....Feb. 28 @ 2:45
Belmont Hills ES...Jan. 18 @ 3:45	Lower Merion HS.....Feb. 29 @ 2:45
Merion ES.....Jan. 24 @ 3:45	Technology/Operations.....Mar. 8 @ 12:00
Cynwyd ES.....Jan. 25 @ 3:45	Transportation – Mats.....Mar. 13 @ 1:00
Penn Valley ES.....Jan. 31 @ 3:45	Transportation – Harriton.....Mar. 15 @ 1:00
Gladwyne ES.....Feb. 1 @ 3:45	Transportation – LMHS.....Mar. 20 @ 1:00
Bala Cynwyd MS....Feb. 7 @ 3:15	Administration.....Mar. 21 @ 12:00
Welsh Valley MS....Feb. 8 @ 3:15	Night Custodians (LMEA Office)..Mar. 27 @ 1:00

## ***Employers (Including LMSD) to Start Collecting EIT in January***

Last April district employees were notified that starting in January Pa Act 32 will require employers to collect and distribute any earned income tax (EIT) to municipalities that impose it on their residents. What this means is that if your local municipality has an EIT the district will start to collect it from your pay starting with the January 6, 2012 payroll. Many EIT rates are set at 1-2%

of earned income. Members should check with their local municipality if they have questions about their EIT tax and what that money is used for.

### ***Annual Maternity Leave Workshop Returned on December 6th***

More than a dozen members turned out for the annual maternity and child leave workshop that was held at the LMEA office on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Attendees got a detailed explanation of this important contractual benefit and had their questions answered by our First Vice President Aimee Avellino. If you missed the workshop and have questions, or you would like a copy of the FAQ document, you can contact Aimee at [avilla@lmsd.org](mailto:avilla@lmsd.org).



### ***In case this winter is equal to or worse than last winter***

Everyone bears reminding of a few pertinent parts of our contract:

- In the event of a late opening due to weather conditions all professionals, instructional assistants, ten month secretaries, staff nurses, tutors, campus aides and cafeteria/recess assistants are expected to “make a good faith effort” to arrive at their normal starting time. On days when weather causes an early dismissal of schools, the same employees may leave work one hour after the students or *earlier at the principal’s discretion*.
- The first snow day used will not be made up by professionals, a second snow day will be added back as an in-service day on Monday, June 18. A third snow day (and any beyond that) must be made up by the students in order to complete the state-required 180 day school year. Due to these contractual requirements, teachers are strongly cautioned not to make irrevocable travel plans for June 16-18 until after the threat of weather closings has passed.

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*Warmest Wishes to You and Yours this Holiday Season  
From*



*Your LMEA Officers*

