

Three employee contracts settled in three months

Between August and October the three union contracts up for renewal in District 308 were settled. According to Associate Superintendent Todd Colvin, the goal was to safeguard the fiscal stability of the district while retaining the district's quality staff members. The key to success was the on-going cooperation and dedication of the union membership to help the district turn those goals into reality.

On October 26, the Oswego Education Association (OEA) and Board of Education agreed to a 3.8 percent salary increase over two years—1.5 percent increase in year one followed by 2.3 percent in the second and final year of the contract. The union membership also agreed, if financially necessary, to take an un-paid furlough day during the 2010-11 school year to save the district approximately \$290,000.

Some OEA members may also receive additional salary increases ranging from 5 to 6.75 percent in recognition of their completion of graduate coursework or obtaining an advanced educational

degree.

In September the Oswego Custodial Maintenance Association settled a four-year contract. The Oswego Transportation Association (OTA)—which is responsible for 68 percent of the district's transportation services—settled its new three-year contract in August.

Both contracts call for a two-percent salary increase in year one. In the final years of the contracts, salaries are tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) according to each union's collective bargaining agreement.

Union Membership:

OEA

945 employees that include teachers, department chairpersons, learning resource center directors, speech pathologists, counselors and certified nurses.

OCMA

138 employees including 44 in the maintenance and 94 in the custodial departments.

OTA

151 employees including 103 bus drivers, 34 bus monitors and seven dean's assistants at each of the two high schools.

Parent Teacher Conferences—an opportunity for everyone to succeed

Parent-Teacher conferences are a way for teachers and parents to work together to develop the best educational path for their students. For parents, the conference provides an opportunity to get to know their child's teachers, learn about the school and curriculum, and discuss their child's strengths and challenges. Teachers benefit with a better understanding of each child and how to more successfully meet each student's educational needs. Most importantly, the child receives a better and more personalized education.



Here are a few tips to help parents make the most out of their parent-teacher conferences:

- Be prompt for your conference so you can take full advantage of your allotted time. If you feel

you need further discussion, ask to schedule additional time on another day to speak with the teacher.

- Make a list of any health, social or emotional issues that may influence your child's education to help the teacher better understand each student.
- Ask questions. It will help if you take some time prior to the conference to make a list so you remember what to ask.
- The teacher will discuss your child's test results, success and challenges in various subject areas, and other academic and social observations. Be open to working together with the teacher to develop home and school strategies to help your child be successful.

Information provided by NSPRA.

District's enrollment increases by 711 students

More than 700 new students are sitting in District 308 classrooms this year according to the district's Enrollment and Class Size report. This increase has raised the district's total enrollment to 16,182 and resulted in increases at the high school (up 409 students), junior high (up 42 students) and elementary (up 260 students) levels.

The largest increases were seen at the high school level. The district's 709 students in the Class of 2009 were replaced this year by 1,258 incoming freshmen. Oswego High School received the lion's share of the overall increase (305) compared to Oswego East High School's (104), which mostly resulted from adjusting the high school boundaries to equalize the number of students between the two schools. Currently, Oswego High School serves 1,946 students compared to Oswego East's 2,178 students. Forecast numbers—counting only those students currently in the district—show that during the next couple of years, both high schools will experience overcrowding.

The same method--using boundary changes to equalize student enrollment--resulted in changes at the junior high level. While increases were seen at Bednarcik Junior High (35) and Traughber Junior High (48), decreases were seen at Plank Junior High (47) and Thompson Junior High (4). This shift resulted in 2009-10 enrollments at the junior high level of 899 Thompson students, 896 Traughber students, 881 Plank students and 846 Bednarcik students.

At the elementary level, the largest increase in students was seen at Southbury elementary, up by 245 students, mainly due to the boundary changes. Also recording increases this year are Grande Park Elementary (100), Lakewood Creek Elementary (87), Churchill Elementary (42), Homestead Elementary (42), The Wheatlands Elementary (30), Wolf's Crossing Elementary (12), and Boulder Hill Elementary (6). Only three elementary schools showed a decrease in their numbers of students this year: Prairie Point Elementary (52), Old Post Elementary (29), and Long Beach Elementary (28).

The enrollment numbers at both Fox Chase Elementary and Hunt Club Elementary (which houses the previous East View student population) remained the same as last year.

The increases at the elementary level are expected to continue as a growing number of first graders have been entering the district (102 more this year than in 2008-09).

Brokaw Early Learning Center, which targets special education and at-risk preschoolers, decreased its enrollment by 66 students. Although there remains a waiting list at the school, reduced state funding has limited the number of students that could be served by the district. However, since the official enrollment numbers were compiled for the state on Sept. 30, additional funding became available and an additional 30 students were registered at the ELC.

Mewmaw (continued from page 1)

taught. My educational philosophies have been shaped by my life experiences."

In only five years, Mewmaw has made a tremendous impact on those in the district. For her students she is a tremendous teacher who has been involved with Safety Patrol, French and Yearbook Clubs as well as Student Council. For her co-workers she is a union representative, Web master, mentor and serves on the building's leadership team. For the district she is a leader in social studies curriculum and assessments and a valued resource on a strategic goal committee. And for the profession of education, as stated by the Illinois State Board of Education, she is simply "outstanding."

Those Who Excel candidates are nominated through letters of recommendation by local schools and community members. The nomination also includes the nominee's biography, philosophy of education, professional development, community involvement, and opinions of the state's most pressing educational needs.



AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Great public schools: a basic right and our responsibility.

November 15-21, 2009

www.nea.org/aew



District 308 banners will fly throughout Oswego November 15-21, signaling the 88th annual American Education Week.

AEW presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor the individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child receives a quality education. The AEW tagline, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," calls upon all Americans to do their part in making public schools great for every child so that they can grow and achieve in the 21st century.

District 308 schools have each planned special events to recognize AEW. In many, members of the public have been invited into the schools to read or share a career with students, tour the buildings or become involved in some other special way. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to visit the schools and see the advances in education that have been implemented to ensure our "21st century learners" succeed in life. Only through a partnership of schools and community can District 308 achieve its mission of providing educational excellence within a caring community setting.



School Board Member's Day is November 15, 2009

Please take the opportunity to thank these volunteers for working for your kids!

During its October meetings, the District 308 Board of Education:

- Approved a five year lease of six school buses from Midwest Transit, Inc. for a total annual cost of \$57,600.
- Approved the implementation of Strategies V-Technology and VI-Diversity and Inclusion of the district's Strategic Plan.
- Approved the design, budget and timeline for the Route 71 improvements.
- Accepted the District 308 Demographic Study on School Growth and Funding provided by Shoppe Design and Associates.
- Approved the district's annual Assessment and Accountability Report.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

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| Nov. 3 | Board Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m. / Traugber J.H. |
| Nov. 9 | BOE Committees of the Whole
6:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S.

Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S. |
| Nov. 17 | Board Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m. / Traugber J.H. |
| Nov. 23 | Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m. / Oswego East H.S. |

Click the BoardDocs link on www.oswego308.org to access additional meeting information.



SchoolMatters MONTHLY | District 308 Communications Department

District Administration Center | 4175 Route 71 | Oswego, Illinois 60543 | 630.636.3080 | www.oswego308.org

Educational Excellence. Caring Community.

