

Dear EACC Members, Here are the EACC updates as of Friday, March 18, 2016

Recap of past events:

Advocating for students - On March 10th, 2016, CT Wilson's bill opposing Life Skills students taking the PARCC test, as well as promoting accommodations for ELL students when taking PARCC (House Bill 871) went before the Ways and Means Committee in Annapolis. CCPS teachers and EACC members Amy Snyder and Denise McCloskey provided vibrant testimony about their Life Skills classrooms along with a parent of a Life Skills student (Heather Dautrich) who spoke. Linda McLaughlin, EACC President, spoke in support of the bill on behalf of ELL students. Amy Hollstein, CCPS Assistant Superintendent of Instruction spoke in favor of the bill as well. Thank you all for being staunch advocates for our students!

At the March 8th Board of Ed meeting some very important **calendar decisions for School Year 16-17 and School Year 17-18** were made:

1. The Board voted to make Spring Break whole again (one full week, plus Easter Monday off) for the 16-17 SY. The motion was made by Mike Lukas and seconded by Jennifer Abell. The motion carried.
2. The Board also voted to make Spring Break whole again (one full week, plus Easter Monday off) for the 17-18 SY. This motion was made by Jennifer Abell and seconded by Margaret Marshall. The motion carried unanimously!

What's new?

Voting for the 2016 **MSEA NEA Director run-off election** began on Monday, March 7 at 9:00 a.m. Please instruct members to vote online at www.marylandeducators.org/msea2016election. **The deadline for voting is April 1 at 5:00 p.m.** You will need your MSEA member ID number- which can be found on the back of your ActionLine Magazine or your MSEA membership card (or your rep has a list).

Happy **Read Across America** month! We at EACC are preparing for our annual donation of books to the Birthing Center at the University of Maryland Regional Medical Center in La Plata. We are partnering again this year with Forever Free Books to donate a bag for each child born during the month at the La Plata hospital. Each bag has a Dr. Seuss- style poem in it and a book for them to take home and keep. Literacy begins at home, and EACC supports reading at all levels. The presentation will be March 30, 2016.

Coffee and Chat with Linda- come visit with Linda at the **La Plata Panera** on **Sunday, March 20th from 2-4 PM**. Bring your concerns and questions, get an update on MSEA's "Less Testing More Learning" campaign and get a rundown on all the education bills that are being discussed in Maryland's General Assembly right now that will affect you as an educator.

Come to the EACC Rep Assembly! All members are welcome at any of our Rep Assemblies. Our next RA is April 13, 2016, at 5PM at the Gwynn Center. Come hear the latest updates from EACC, ask questions, and see how the EACC is working for you! Talk to your building rep to come to the RA!

EACC's Got Talent! Do you have a well-known or hidden talent? Then ***EACC's Got Talent*** is looking for YOU! Auditions for ***EACC's Got Talent*** are open to all CCPS employees on 4/27 and 4/28, 4:30-7:00 PM in the John Hanson Middle School Chorus Room. Email Beth Ullmann at

bullmann@ccboe.com or Peter Ullmann at pullmann@ccboe.com to schedule your audition. If your audition is accepted, competing in EACC's Got Talent is FREE to members, and \$10 for non-members. EACC's Got Talent will be held on May 3, 2016 at La Plata High School. Prizes will be awarded.

The EACC Government Relations Committee has met and has been making plans:

- We want you to come to Annapolis and lobby our legislators with us! Your stories will resonate with your elected officials! Our **Lobbying Dates** are:
 - March 21, 2016
 - April 4, 2016

Lobby Night incentives:

- Gift card drawing each Lobby Night
- If you attend 4 of 5 of the Lobby Nights, you will put in a drawing for a Kindle
- If you attend 5 of 5 Lobby Nights, you will be put in a drawing for dinner with MSEA President Betty Weller

Future Coffee and Chat with Linda

- Sunday, March 20, 2016, 2:00-4:00 PM – Panera, La Plata
- Sunday, April 3, 2016, 2:00-4:00 PM – Panera, Waldorf
- Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2:00-4:00 PM – Panera, La Plata

VOLUNTEER AT THE NEA RA!

This year Maryland and Virginia will be co-hosting the NEA RA in Washington, D.C. More than 200 volunteers are needed to ensure a great experience for delegates and attendees. We need volunteers.

Contact: Mary Fenton, 301/751-4435; Liz Brown, 301/452-2102

To register as a volunteer, request committee assignments, and learn more about the various committees, just go to <https://tinyurl.com/hostcommittee2016>.

It is never too early to start thinking about the financial future and retirement.

The EACC-Retired committee is sponsoring a financial workshop for those teachers who are within 5 years of retiring. The workshop is "Understanding Your Retirement" on Thursday, **April 7, 2016, 5:00-6:30 PM, Stoddert MS Cafeteria**

The workshop will be presented by Damion N. Dengler, CFP, CPA of Integrated Financial Solutions, Inc.

To register for this workshop, please go to: <http://teameacc.org/register-for-events/>

EACC Committees

We would love for more members to become active on our committees! Please contact the committee chairs listed below if you are interested in joining.

Membership – Chair: Kathy Reamy

Next meeting date March 29, 2016, 5:00 PM, EACC office

The Membership Committee helps grow the membership of the Association by planning and running member social activities.

Happy Hour Dates: May 5.

Teacher Appreciation Week (05/1-05/07) events planned:

1. Picnic at Gilbert Run Park, 1-5 PM, 05/01
2. Cold Stone Creamery, Waldorf- 05/02
3. "EACC's Got Talent", 05/03
4. Happy Hour at Martini's- 05/05
5. Sweet Frog, La Plata – 05/06

Government Relations (GR) Committee- Chair: Veronica McFadden

Next meeting- Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 5:00 PM, EACC office

The GR Committee is involved in political activities and helps members become strong advocates for public education.

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:00PM, EACC office.

Future meeting dates: April 12, 2016, and May 10, 2016

Instruction and Professional Development (IPD) Committee – Chair: Heather Hartman-Jansen

Next meeting – Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 5PM, EACC Office

The IPD Committee plans and implements Professional Development and Member Wellness workshops and activities.

Public Relations (PR) Committee- Chair: Joe McMahan

Next meeting – TBA

The PR Committee promotes and advocates for the education profession in a positive manner in all manners of media outlets in the community.

Minority and Human Civil Rights Committee – Margot Savoy

Next meeting- March 21, 2016- 5 PM, Mattawoman MS Cafeteria

The Minority and Human Civil Rights Committee helps make ALL members feel that they are part of the union.