

Dear EACC Members, Here are the EACC updates as of Friday, December 16, 2016

Catching up.....

1. **EACC Paint Night 12/9** – A HUGE shout out to **Vicki Marckel**, EACC member and art teacher at Lackey High School, who led our EACC Paint Night on December 9th. We had almost 40 budding artists in the room, and Vicki was our fearless, super energetic leader. It was a great way to spend a Friday night and be creative as we all de-stressed from the week!
2. **SY 2017-2018 Calendar** – The SY 2017-2018 Calendar was discussed and voted on at the 12/13/16 **Board of Education meeting**. The changes include:
 - A post - Labor Day start date (based on the Governor’s mandate) of Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.
 - Schools and offices are closed Nov. 22-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is now a day off for students and staff).
 - The last day of school for students is Friday, June 15, 2018 (5 inclement weather days built in, instead of 6).
 - The last day of school for teachers is Monday, June 18, 2018 (5 inclement weather days built in, instead of 6)

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters to the Board of Education to give concerns and suggestions about the 2017-2018 school calendar, specifically concerning the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The flood of emails and suggestions, along with the survey data provided by the student liaisons to the Board, helped fuel the deliberations of the Board concerning next year’s calendar!

3. EACC Legislative Reception, 12/15, Somers Middle School

The EACC Legislative Reception was a success! Our guests included Senator Mac Middleton, Delegate Edith Patterson, Charles County Commissioner President Peter Murphy and Commissioner Ken Robinson, Charles County Board of Education Chair Ginny McGraw, Board Vice Chair Michael Lukas, Board members Jennifer Abell, Mark Crawford and Vicki Kelly.

We had about 60 EACC reps and retired EACC members in attendance, too. Veronica McFadden, art teacher at Gale-Bailey ES, EACC GR chair and EACC Executive Board member, was our emcee for the evening. She did an outstanding job of questioning to our elected officials. We will send out notes from the Q & A section of the evening soon.

What’s New?

1. **Congratulations to Suzanne Miles!** Congratulations to Suzanne Miles, EACC Rep at Thomas Stone High School, who won a gift card from MSEA in a drawing from reps across the state of Maryland for **recruiting new members!** Thanks for all your hard work and advocacy, Suzanne!
2. **Congratulations to Kathy Reamy!** Congratulations to Kathy Reamy, counselor at La Plata High School and EACC Vice President, who has been approved to join the **Board of Directors for United Way of Charles County!**
3. **Coffee and Chat with Linda**
Come see me at “Coffee and Chat with Linda”. I will be at Panera on the following date(s), sipping coffee and chatting with any member who comes to talk to me.

Sunday, December 18th, 2:00 – 4:00 PM – Panera, La Plata

4. From Charlene Haynie, our EACC-Retired Chair:

Thinking about retiring? Contact the EACC to find out how to continue your membership into retirement, remaining involved and enjoying the camaraderie of your colleagues.

The EACC Retirement Seminar will be held on **March 21, 2017**, place TBD.

5. Do you want to attend the EACC EdCamp in January? Register today!

The **Instructional and Professional Development (IPD) Committee** has organized an innovative conference that is guided by the interests of the participants to share ideas. The **EACC EdCamp**, Sat. 01/21/17, Stoddert MS, 9 AM- 12 noon.

Visit the following link to find out more and to sign up!

<https://teameacc.wufoo.com/forms/qzi6560sh9pwj/>

5. SAVE THE DATES!!!! The IPD has created even more opportunities for members! More information will be coming soon!

1. “Degrees Not Debt” presentation, 2/7/17, site TBD, 5:00 PM (Michael Gavin, NEAMB)
2. New Teacher Financial Planning, 2/28/17, 5:00 PM (Damion Dengler)
3. EACC Wellness Day, 3/25/17, 8:00 AM- 12 noon, NPFS

6. EACC MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS!

We know there are many awesome projects and initiatives going on in our schools every day that are created, initiated and led by our fantastic EACC members! The community benefits not only from what we do in our classrooms and in our schools to support our school community, but what we do outside of our schools as well!

Do you have a headline about yourself or another EACC member colleague that you would like to share? Do you know of an EACC member who is receiving an award for something school related, or something community-service related? EACC would like to know about it! EACC would like to recognize and celebrate all the great things that are happening in our schools and in which our members take part. To do that, we need you, our members, to keep us informed.

We have created a form called “EACC Member Highlights” which can be found on our EACC website, www.teameacc.org. On that form, you can describe the fantastic feats of your school friends and colleagues that you feel should be celebrated! You will be able to tell about the amazing awards you and your colleagues are receiving! We will use the information we gather to promote EACC member accomplishments on our Facebook page, when we speak to our elected officials and the Board of Education, through the Maryland Independent, and when we advocate for our profession and the excellence that we create here in Charles County every day!

Please visit this link <http://teameacc.org/eacc-member-highlights/> today (or visit our EACC website), and any day to let us know about positive achievements going on for you and around you!

Opportunities/Action Items from MSEA:

SAFE SCHOOLS FOR EVERY STUDENT PLEDGE

Educators are witnessing firsthand the increase in hate speech and hostile acts directed at our students in our schools, and NEA is building a national movement of educators and allies committed to safe and

affirming school climates and school communities. The first step in this effort is a pledge to show their support for safe learning environments for every student.

Pledge for Educators

Please share this widely with your members and on your digital properties. After educators take the pledge, they are prompted to engage their colleagues by sending a personalized link asking educators in their school to join them. This effort is based in GLSEN's research that shows the tipping point for creating safe and affirming schools requires at least 6 educators to show support. Once at least 6 people from a school have signed the pledge, they'll be sent a kit with materials and resources on school climate to show that they are an advocate for students in their school. NEA will follow up with these committed member-activists with resources and opportunities to build capacity and take action on related issues. [Click here for the educator pledge.](#) [Click here](#) for additional resources and information regarding tracking pledge sign-ups and the Pledge for Allies.

Story Collection

NEA is looking for more stories of members protecting and supporting students in these divisive times. There is a tremendous amount of media attention on hate speech and bullying in schools. NEA wants to ensure the positive and powerful responses of educators are heard. Please email statecommdesk@nea.org with your stories.

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. Committee notes will be posted after each meeting on the EACC website, www.teameacc.org

Membership – Chair: Lisa Terlecki

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

Next meeting: Thursday, February 9, 5:00PM

Government Relations (GR) Committee- Chair: Veronica McFadden

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

Meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month, 5:30PM, EACC office.

Next meeting: January 5, 2017, 5:30 PM

Come to Annapolis and lobby our legislators with us! Save these dates during the next legislative session!

Lobby Nights 2017-

1. 01/23 (snow date 01/30)
2. 02/06 (snow date 02/13)
3. 02/27 (snow date 03/6)
4. 03/13
5. 03/27
6. 04/03(if needed)

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

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

Next meeting: January 12, 2017, 5:00 PM, EACC Office

Public Relations Committee- Chair Kathy Reamy

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

Next meeting: January 19, 2017, 5:00 PM, EACC Office

Minority and Human Affairs – Margot Savoy

The Committee helps make ALL members feel that they are part of the union

December meeting has been cancelled.

Next meeting is February 23, 2017, 5:00 PM, EACC Office

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