

KCEA Elections..... 2
 Constitutions & Bylaws Amendments..... 3
 TEA RA 3
 TEA Bonus & Raise..... 3
 KC Retied Teachers' Association..... 4
 KC-PACE..... 4
 Other Info 4

The Advocate

Message From The President

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced a litany of uncertainties for public schools as well as for the majority of the national and global communities. For instance, there are uncertainties about how school closures last Spring are potentially negatively impacting student achievement and how the ongoing rapid conversion of instruction to online learning is seemingly not as effective. These uncertainties are real. COVID will continue to affect society, but just how, will continue to be the question. While the CDC is actively working to learn more about the short- and long-term health effects associated with COVID, the Department of Education should be doing the same. We must be diligent to help the larger community understand that the physical side effects of COVID are not the only side effects. Public education has been dealing with an outbreak of inequities well before COVID and those side effects have proven to be just as detrimental.

Many of us know some of the side effects of COVID—to include but not limited to—fatigue, persistent coughs, joint pains, intermittent fevers, and the list can go on. Education leaders, students, and communities now must grapple with seemingly impossible choices that must balance health risks associated with in-person learning against educational needs of all children. We, as educators, know all too well that teaching in-person is ideal, and evidence has proven it to be the best. But when educators wake up in the morning, many of us teeter on the edge of our beds, contemplating our day of service. It is a service. We have given our time, energy, and at times ... blood, sweat and tears for our students, just for a pandemic to come along and question our innermost, dedicated commitments to public education.

Public education has been underfunded, underappreciated, and under attack for several decades. We can not make any strides in public education without being set-up to take two steps back. Here it is 2021 and for the state of Tennessee, we are still in the bottom 5% on spending per pupil; 46th to be exact; it is insulting. But we all know this all too well. We must start or continue the conversations with our parents, grandparents, hairdressers, barbers, etc.; we must make it explicitly clear that the pandemic, alone, did not get us here. We must let anyone and everyone know that we do not have up-to-date or even the absence of computers, textbooks for every student, hot meals on a daily basis or even adequate desks; along with nurses or counselors or related arts opportunities. Why? The long-term effects of not sufficiently funding public education are now in the open book of the pandemic. Society was not doing right by public education. Now is the time. Speak Up. Tell somebody the injustice that you must endure. I am sure someone will soon listen. But most importantly, take care of yourself. Your students need you, the community needs you. That's a fact!

Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands, & Social Distance



Bills to watch in the TN General Assembly

- HB7003/SB7001

Excludes data generated by state assessments

- HB0225/SB0103

Gives Local Education Agents (LEAs) authority to open/close schools during a public health crisis

- SB 0231

Re-evaluate the BEP Formula

- HB7017

Eliminates student data/scores from school's accountability and teacher accountability scores

- HB7021

LEAs must be in school for at least 70 days

- HB7022

Increase funding for BEP for the next 2 years

- HB0016

Removal of disruptive students from the classroom by a teacher's request

KCEA ELECTIONS 2021

KCEA's elections will take place between February 22 and March 8, 2021.

New Executive Board Members will be inducted at the Representative Assembly on May 24, 2021.

President (2 Yr. Term)



Name:

Paula
Hancock

(Uncontested)

School:

Karns MS

Vice President (2 Yr. Term)



Name:

Angie
Patrick

(Uncontested)

School:

Belle Morris ES

Secretary (2 Yr. Term)



Name:

Eric
Aguilar

(Uncontested)

School:

Chilhowee

Elementary School Seat: (3 Yr. Term)



Name:

Kellie Layden

(Uncontested)

School:

Maynard ES

Middle School Seat: (3 Yr. Term)



Name:

Jen Sauer

(Uncontested)

School:

South Doyle
MS

High School Seat (3 Yr. Term)



Name:

Dr. Laura
Kildare

(Uncontested)

School:

Career Magnet
HS

Ethnic Minority-at-Large Seat: 1 Position (2 Yr. Un-Expired Term)



Name:

Ashley Anthony

(Uncontested)

School:

Gibbs ES

ESP-at-Large Seat : 1 Position (3 Yr. Term)



Name:

Patty Jackson
(incumbent)

School:

West Haven ES



Name:

Terratta
Wakefield

School:

Karns ES

Non-Traditional Site (3 Yr. Term)



Name:

Connie Mitchell

(Uncontested)

School:

Fort Sanders
Development

Uncontested Races

You might be asking, "What happens when someone is running unopposed?"

Per our Constitution (Article IV Sec.2) and By-Laws (Article V-J), the Representative Assembly has the power to vote these folks in by acclamation (using a voice vote).

These nominees will then be ratified by the membership on the ballot.

Proposed changes to the KCEA Constitution and Bylaws

Constitution/Bylaws Amendment #1

Constitution Article III—Membership, Section 1

Insert new paragraph after b. Retirees

No person qualifying for Active membership in the local, state or national association shall be denied membership based on race, color, creed, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, economic status or national origin.

Constitution/Bylaws Amendment #2

Bylaws Article X—Elections, Section 1

Insert new sentence at the end of Section 1

Each active member will be entitled to one vote.

Constitution/Bylaws Amendment #3

Bylaws Article 1 —Meetings, Section 2

Insert new wording at the end of the first sentence.

...except for the months of June and July.

The TEA RA-April 9-10, 2021

Have You Ever Attended The Tennessee Education Association (TEA) Representative Assembly (RA)?

KCEA has a total of 70 seats available for delegates to this major, state-wide meeting. Currently, 27 have been nominated and 43 seats are still open. The 27 delegates will, therefore, win by acclamation. The other available delegate seats will be elected on the ballot by write-in for the TEA RA which is highly encouraged. **Here are some details about the TEA RA:**

- You will log on virtually on Friday, April 9, 2021 and Saturday, April 10, 2021
- You will need to stay until the conclusion of the RA on Saturday (approx. 5 PM EST)
- You will get a \$100 stipend that will cover the cost of a meal and a donation to the Fund for Children in Public Education (FCPE)
- You will need to vote for candidates and/or the TEA Constitution & Bylaws amendments via snail mail
- You will need to be present for NBIs (new business items)
- You will need to be present for the TEA Budget Presentation
- You will represent the KCEA
- You can speak as an individual at the RA

Note: This year the RA will be VIRTUAL.

BONUS and a RAISE
FOR ALL OUR EXTRA DAYS

**We've done our job.
Gov. Lee must do his.**

Tennessee's educators have gone to unimaginable lengths to keep instruction going and students engaged during this disastrous pandemic.

The Lee administration pushed for schools to reopen during the summer spike in COVID cases, sending educators into the pandemic with sporadic guidance and supplies to mitigate risk and disruption. Educators did their job. Now it is time for the governor to do his.

TEA calls for an educator bonus this school year and a substantial raise for next year. With state revenue remaining strong (see story at right), billions in cash reserves and a federal stimulus just passed, the state has the resources for a bonus and a raise.

The state has the money.
We've earned it. TEA's proposal:

\$3,000 BONUS
Direct payment this school year for every certified personnel working in school systems. 76,000 eligible.
One-time cost: \$228 million


\$2,000 BONUS
Payment this school year for every classified personnel working in school systems. 42,000 eligible.
One-time cost: \$84 million

10% ED RAISE
An increase in the BEP Instructional Component for current educators in FY22. Recurring cost: \$292 million

"It is time to reset the expectations of what is possible when it comes to funding and professional pay," said TEA President Beth Brown. "Our call for \$300 million in one-time funding for an educator bonus recognizes the state has the funds and educators have earned it. It is going to take a big push from educators and parents to make it happen." The administration reported a \$369 million surplus at the end of the 2020 fiscal year and collected \$1 billion more than anticipated in the past five months. During June's pandemic budget hearings, the administration acknowledged a key TEA issue: the state has \$6 billion in cash reserves accumulated from years of state budget surpluses. A bonus is a non-recurring appropriation, funded by reserves or surpluses that do not become part of the base budget in future years. In the 2000s, the Bredesen administration often budgeted teacher bonuses when recurring healthcare costs reduced future available revenue. A raise is a recurring appropriation, added to the BEP Instructional Component, which then becomes an ongoing obligation. Tennessee's budget process chronically underestimates future revenue (not good) and emphasizes paying all obligations such as pension and healthcare liabilities immediately (really good). This combination (especially the underestimation of revenue) makes increasing recurring items more difficult to add to budgets. There is ample revenue for a raise in state coffers. TEA estimates that there will be more than \$1 billion in revenue available for budget increases for this year and into 2021-

2022. While there are great needs in other budget areas, it is time educators become the priority. "The governor said he wanted Tennessee to be the best place to teach in the country. A key component must be professional, competitive salaries," said Brown. "Moreover, when state salary monies are appropriated, there must also be safe guards to ensure those funds get into teacher paychecks." TEA has fought for years to reinstate the state minimum salary schedule and improve other state levers to drive state dollars into salaries. One problem has been the state simply does not do enough on state education funding while constantly creating new unfunded mandates. Tennessee is in the bottom five states for funding per student, ranking 46th and well behind every neighboring state except for Mississippi. The difference is while most southern states provide a majority of K-12 funding, Tennessee is a minority funder, relying more on local revenue. "Tennessee educators get top ten results on graduation rates and rank well on many education benchmarks. There would be a huge cry from the administration and legislators if we were bottom five in any academic category. Yet they are at fault for our dismal funding ranking. The revenue is there. Now is the time to invest, and step one is to invest in the teaching profession," Brown said.

Published in the TEA Public School Advocate, January 2021

Knox County Retired Teachers Association

Teachers Association

Contact Information:

Libby Burney, knoxretiredteachers@gmail.com
 711 Hall of Fame Drive, Knoxville, TN 37917
 Website: www.knoxretiredteachers.com
 Facebook: Knox County (TN) Retired Teachers Association

Meetings:

4th Thursday of Alternate Months Except November (3rd Thursday)

The Foundry, 747 Worlds Fair Park Drive

January March May
 July September November

KCRTA / TRTA

The only organization working to improve the lives of retired educators
 Since 1957

The Retired Organization has been working to improve retiree benefits

KCRTA Provides Opportunities For:

Fellowship Community Service Informational Programs
 Scholarships Discounts

Retiring this Year?

You can still be an advocate for Public Education through the Knox County Retired Teachers' Association

Calendar of Events

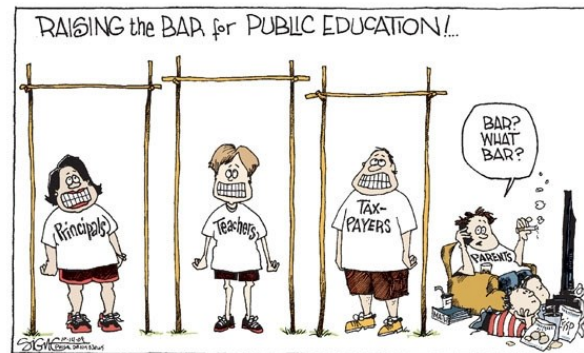
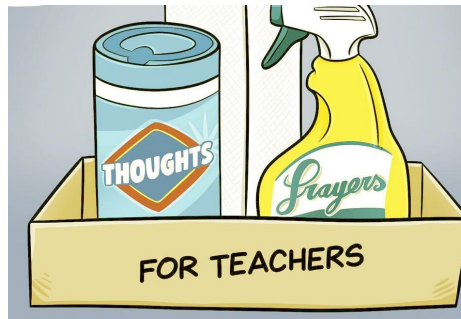
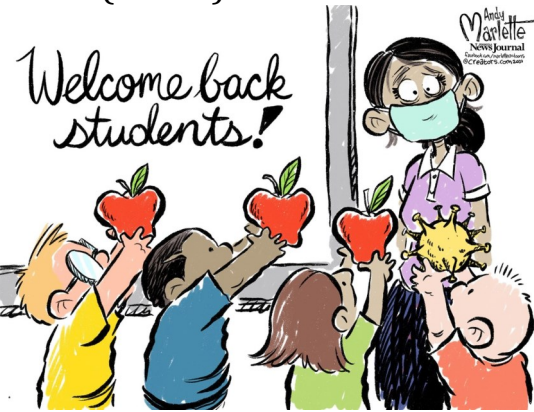
- February 22 KCEA RA @ 4:30 PM
- February 22 - KCEA voting window
March 08 (via US mail)
- February 24 Wisdom Wednesday @5:30 PM
- February 24 KCS BOE Quarterly Work Session @ 5:00 PM
- March 3 KCS BOE Work Session @ 5:00 PM
- March 8 KCEA Executive Board Meeting @ 4:30 PM
- March 10 Wisdom Wednesday @ 5:30 PM
- March 10 KCS BOE Meeting @ 5:00 PM
- March 12-14 NEA Leadership Summit (virtually)
- March 15-19 Spring Break: KCEA Office is closed
- March 22 KCEA RA @ 4:30 PM
- March 24 Wisdom Wednesday @ 5:30 PM
- April 7 KCS BOE Work Session @ 5:00 PM
- April 9-10 TEA Representative Assembly (virtually)
- April 12 KCEA Executive Board Meeting @ 4:30 PM
- April 14 KCS BOE Meeting @ 5:00 PM
- April 26 KCEA RA @ 4:30 PM

KC-PACE is the Political Action Committee for Education. It is a committee affiliated with the KCEA, but it is considered a separate, non-partisan entity that provides insight of candidates' political platforms to our members.

If you are interested in serving in one of the 2 seats below, please write-in your name on the ballot. Please remember, for the District seats, you must WORK in that specific District.

- District 1 (Austin East, Beaumont, Chilhowee, Fair Garden, Ft. Sanders, Green, Holston, L&N STEM, Lonsdale, Maynard, Sm E. Hill, Sarah Moore Greene, Spring Hill, Vine, West View)
- District 3 (Bearden: HS, MS, Cedar Bluff: ES, MS, Ridgedale, West Haven)
- District 5 (A.L. Lotts, Blue Grass, Farragut: HS, MS, I & P, West Valley)
- District 7 (Adrian Burnett, Brickey-McCloud, Copper Ridge, Halls: ES, HS & MS, Powell: ES, HS & MS, North Knox Vocational Center)

The (not so) Funnies...



Copyright by Signe Wilkinson



Knox County Education Association
 2411 E Magnolia Avenue
 Knoxville, TN 37917
 Office: 865.522.9793
 Cell: 865.660.0822
 Email: kceaintouch@bellsouth.net
kceaintouch.com

The Advocate

February 2021

Contact the Editors:

Tanya T. Coats & Abbie Hoover;
kceaintouch@bellsouth.net