



LINK



Volume 35, Issue 5

January 2017

Quick Hits:

- ALL active full-time employees employed with LPSS as of May 30, 2017 will receive a one-time stipend of \$157 in their July 1 paycheck.
- LPSB will consider whether or not to pursue a Sales Tax election at its 2/15/17 meeting.
- LPSB has adjusted the school calendar related to ACT administration on 3/21. Students in high school NOT testing on that day will not report to school and testers will have 1/2 day. High school faculty will spend the second part of the day with PD.

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ESPs Gain Long Sought Pay Raise

In a 7-2 vote at its January 4 board meeting, the LPSB voted to grant a pay raise of \$800 for all full-time custodians and a \$600 increase for all other full-time, non-administrative, non-exempt employees. Employees that can expect to see these raises in their February 1 paycheck includes *clerical assistants, food service technicians, carpenters, electricians, maintenance workers, plumbers, printers, mechanics, warehouse workers, clerks, data technicians, secretaries, para-educators, painters, bus attendants, LPNs and bus drivers.*

In addition, employees that are part of the instructional salary sched-

ule will receive a \$1,000 salary raise. Employees in this category are those who don't receive the 2002 Teacher Salary Tax payments.

Though the vote was not unanimous, there was fruitful discussion and support from board members on the Finance Committee. Voting YES on the raises were: Broussard, Chas-sion, Hidalgo, Knezek, Latiolais, Morris, and Morrison. Voting NO were Centanni and Angelle. Mr. Centanni indicated that he was in favor of the original raise as presented to the committee (\$400). However, when a substitution motion was made to make the proposed raise \$600, he felt com-



pelled to vote against.

Many employees have not received raises in over a decade. LPAE is aware that this is a small step in the direction of paying our professionals what they deserve. We will continue to campaign for regular salary increases for employees moving forward.

HR to Begin Accepting Requests For Transfer

Beginning Jan. 23 LPSS will accept requests for voluntary transfers. Requests can be completed online. LPSS has pledged to post job openings and consider transfer requests from within the district before looking elsewhere for hiring. The deadline

for transfer requests is March 1.

As a reminder, rezoning has concluded with major shifts in student populations expected. Involuntary transfers are a distinct possibility. LPSS has developed a rubric (with LPAE input) for

involuntary transfers that will weigh teachers based on classroom performance including: COMPASS evaluations, seniority, certification, and tenure.

The new Southside High school will post job openings online.

LPSS Considers Sales Tax Proposition

Superintendent Dr. Don Aguillard is proposing a 10-year ½ cent sales tax that could generate roughly \$200 million for the school district. The primary purpose of a new tax would be construction projects that eliminate temporary and portable classrooms on campuses across the parish. Schools would also see security upgrades as well as library and cafeteria improvements. In addition, Carencro Heights and Prairie Elementary could see brand new schools.

After lengthy discussions in school board committee meetings, members of the LPSB have changed the type of tax proposition. At its com-

mittee meeting in January, board members voted to propose a property tax for both construction projects and technology. Community response to a property tax was mixed and several board members voted to change the tax proposal to a sales tax.

LPAE's response to the tax proposition has been cautious. There is little argument as to the needs of the system. However many employees question the board's past financial practices and the lingering financial threat of new charter schools in the parish give others pause.

The board will decide whether or not to proceed with a tax election at its February 15th meeting.

LPAE will release more information as it becomes available.

Stay tuned for an LPAE survey. We'd like to know where YOU stand. Should LPSS pursue a tax in the parish in 2017?



LPSS Requests Evaluation of Type-1 Charter

In a surprise move the LPSB, at the request of Dr. Donald Aguillard, directed the district to employ a third party reviewer to evaluate a Type-1 charter application for LPSS from the Jefferson Chamber Foundation Academies (JCFA).

Dr. Aguillard's reasoning stems from the belief that a Type-1 char-

ter school (instead of a state approved BESE Type-2 charter) could save the district money.

LPAE is concerned about the speed of this process as LAE is part of a state lawsuit challenging the funding mechanism of charters (the court case is expected to proceed to the LA Supreme Court). In addi-

tion, BESE has failed to abide by its own timeline to hear charter applications.

The actions of a charter school provider like JCFA to quickly gain approval of a Type-1 charter in Lafayette shows desperation at a time when funding mechanisms are in doubt.

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education professionals. FREE and open to ALL, NEA edCommunities is driven by you to foster student success. This is YOUR community — get inspired and inspire others! Share your strengths, exchange ideas and resources, create innovative materials and tools, join webinars,

and engage with others who share your commitment to our public schools and a student-centered education agenda. Sign up and get started today at

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Dues Watch

Members who pay their dues through the bank draft or credit card method need to be aware of a matter that could affect their standing with the organization.

When changes to banking information (ex. new bank, new account, debit card expiration date, etc.) occur the Louisiana Association of Educators will not be able to withdraw your monthly dues from your account. Those members using a credit card will experience the same thing if the card is cancelled, denied, etc. If this happens to you, membership could lapse resulting in loss of organization privileges.

We ask that you monitor bank/credit card statements to identify any such problems. Also, if you know of impending changes, you can update your pay information directly with LAE. Donna Thibodeaux may be contacted through email dthibodeaux@lae.org or by phone 1-225-330-0402 to have adjustments made to your dues pay method.

Further questions may be directed to Karen Martin, LPAE Membership, at lafayettepae@gmail.com or 337-231-0010.

NEED HELP?



1.877.452.3477 • advocacycenter@lae.org



The NEA FOUNDATION Grant

The NEA Foundation provides NEA members with grants to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools and public higher education institutions in any subject area(s). The proposed work should engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen their

knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should also improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection.

Applicants must be NEA members who are practicing K-12

Public School educators or education support professionals.

Grant applications and additional details can be found at the NEA Foundation website.

The grant amounts available are \$2,000 and \$5,000.

Deadlines for applications are February 1, June 1, and October 15.

Read Across America Coming Soon

LPAE's annual collaboration with NEA and the Lafayette Public Library system continues in 2017 with the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss. NEA locals from across the nation work to foster the joy of reading for children through community collaboration. This year's event promises to be

the best yet. LPAE does need YOUR help to make our Read Across America event a successful and enjoyable one. We can always use more volunteers and readers to help with activities, refreshments, and storytelling.

More details are forthcoming. For

now, please contact us at the office if you'd like to volunteer.



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NEA President: Betsy DeVos is Dangerously Unqualified to Serve as Education Secretary

President Lily Eskelsen García called upon the NEA and its 3 million members to strongly urge the U.S. Senate to reject Betsy DeVos, President Donald Trump's nomination for Secretary of Education.

"Educators believe America is a country where all children have the right to a public education that helps them reach their full potential. We know that their opportunity to succeed should not depend on living in the right ZIP code. Our public schools are open to all students no matter their backgrounds. And every student deserves the best this country can offer.

"Betsy DeVos is dangerously unqualified and lacks the experience we expect in America's secretary of education. If confirmed, she

would become the first secretary of education with *zero* experience with public schools. She has never worked in a public school. She has never been a teacher, a school administrator, nor served on any public board of education. She is out of her league when it comes to knowing and doing what works for public school students.

"The job of the secretary of education is to support our students, especially the most vulnerable, to strengthen American's public education system and to ensure equal access. As a lobbyist and political donor, DeVos has consistently opposed that mission. For decades, instead of supporting public schools, she has led efforts in her home state of Michigan to dismantle and privatize public education. She is a staunch advocate

of giving taxpayer-funded vouchers, with no strings attached, to private schools. She supports charter schools while opposing policies to hold them accountable to taxpayers for their performance. In the end, it's the students who pay the price for her failed policies.

"The DeVos agenda for public education is wrong for students and public schools. We urge the Senate in the strongest terms to reject President Trump's nominee because she is unqualified and lacks the experience in education that Americans expect from their secretary of education."