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Stafford Education Association presents

March 2023



Your local union newsletter

We can hardly believe it's March, and we're just days away from Spring Break! February was full of advocacy, including budget meetings, a second Transportation Town Hall, and a full Meet & Confer agenda with the Superintendent. On February 28th, the School Board approved a substantial budget and funding request to send to the Board of Supervisors. There is potential for the budget next year to do a lot more than just keep the lights on, but it's going to take the voices of educators, parents, and community members, so stay tuned for those advocacy opportunities (highlighted in RED below).

SEA membership continues to grow (we got more than 20 new members last month) as more educators realize the importance of joining the union. Any employee of SCPS is eligible for union membership, including paras, administrators, nurses, substitutes, nutrition workers...if SCPS pays you every month, you're eligible to join the union! Visit this link for details on the monthly dues (which depend on whether you are licensed staff or service staff-known as Educational Support Professionals in union lingo!) and ask your worksite rep for more information on the benefits of union membership. The value of union community, advocacy, and protection is quite high.

**CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF WORKSITE REPS**

## Know Your Rights: A Benefit of Union Membership

Weingarten Rights allow union representation whenever a member is called to a meeting with a supervisor or administrator and the discussion could reasonably lead to discipline or termination. While your UniServ Director or worksite rep are common options, any union member can act as a silent witness for you. You have the right to invoke these rights at any time, including during a meeting. Here are a few things that are always acceptable to say when you're asked to meet with a supervisor or administrator:

- Can you tell me what the meeting will be about? I'd like to prepare.
- I'm happy to meet, but I'd like my union rep to be present as a silent witness.
- I'm sorry, but I don't feel comfortable continuing this meeting without my union rep present.

These are your *legal rights* as a union member. The bottom line? Never 'go it' alone!

### MARCH ADVOCACY CALENDAR

1st: OZB Committee Meeting, Zoom, 5:30p.m

7th: BoS Meeting, 3p.m, Courthouse

7th: SB Meeting, 7:00p.m, School Board chambers

8th: All-Member Meeting, Zoom, 5:30p.m

21st: BoS Meeting, 7p.m, Courthouse

Superintendent presents funding request &  
BoS advertise tax rate/CIP

28th: SEA Executive Board meeting, MNV Office

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