

FORWARD

The Official Newsletter of the Dearborn Federation of School Employees

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Al Lerini, President

The meetings have begun! The various classification meetings that we had during the fall and the suggestions we heard from you during those meetings are being presented on your behalf to district representatives. April 6 was the first meeting and the discussions focused exclusively on Secretarial concerns. Our bargaining team, along with members of the Secretarial classification, engaged in a very productive conversation with our counterparts. Our team felt that we were able to share our concerns and the responses we received were promising. On April 12, our meeting focused on issues related to the Special Education Paras. This meeting was also quite productive with the district representatives finding many of our suggestions and ideas worth implementing. Some of the ideas we proposed are already being implemented and will, hopefully, be ready for the next school year. On April 26, another two classifications will meet with the district: GSRP Paraprofessionals and Technology Support Analysts. On May 1, Trades and Grounds will meet. We still have more classifications that will be scheduled for meetings, but this is where it currently stands.

Thank you, Hayat!

Hyat Taleb, Special Ed Paraprofessional at Miller, recently needed to step down, for personal reasons, from her role as Sergeant-at-Arms on our Executive Board. She was elected to this office on 11/12/21 by a unanimous vote and has been a very strong voice for her classification, helping to increase the number of newly hired paras to a nearly fully staffed department. We wish her the very best in her future and hope that one day, she runs for elected office again. Good luck Hayat!

Meet Our New Bargaining Team

First, a little explanation on how our bargaining team is selected. Our contract limits us to the number of negotiators we are allowed to have at the bargaining table and since our union is comprised of over fifty different classifications of different varieties, selecting a bargaining team is always difficult. This is because it is impossible to have a representative from each classification and it's also impossible to have a representative from each demographic within our union.

Our Union's Constitution requires the President of the Union to nominate the members of the bargaining committee and the Executive Board confirms. These are the members of our Bargaining Committee, their union office, job classification and location of current employment:

- Joe Coulter, Vice-President, Grounds at Fordson
- Kathy Rabadi, Trustee, Secretary II at Stout
- Kyle West, Trustee, Carpenter (Leader) in Trades
- Patty Hartzog, Kitchen Manager II at Maples
- Melissa Daddario, Bus Driver (Leader), Transportation
- Al Lerini, President, Boiler Operator, Maintenance
- Johnny Mickles, AFT Michigan Representative

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

When bargaining is finished, if you would like to vote on the ratification of the new contract, **you must be a union member by May 15, 2023**. If you are not a member by that time, you will not be allowed to vote. Do not miss your chance to participate.



If you are interested in joining our union, please contact Khitam Rabadi or Al Lerini - they are our go-to board members for enrollment and will help you through the process.

If you are already a registered member and know others that may be interested, please ask them to contact Khitam or Al for more information.

Sign up for DFSE membership by using the QR Code or link below:



<https://bit.ly/DFSEdues>

Join DFSE Leadership Team



If you are interested in joining our leadership team, please contact [Khitam Rabadi](mailto:Khitam.Rabadi@dfse.org) or Al Lerini at: 313-274-5900.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

www.DFSE4750.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Membership Meeting - May 11

Our next General Membership Meeting will be on May 11, in room #12 at the ASC building, located at 18700 Audette Street in Dearborn. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will last about two hours. We hope to see you there.

It's time to sign-up for Summer Work!

If you are a 10/11-month employee and you are interested in earning some extra money this summer, don't forget to sign up for this benefit. A sign-up sheet for "Summer Work Possibilities" (Bid #83) was sent to your school emails on April 12. Our contract requires that you have at least three (3) days in your sick bank to qualify, however, even if you do not have this requirement, you should still sign up in case the need for employees exceeds the number of applicants.

President Lerini has agreed to substitute for absent Boiler Operators (BOS) throughout our district. Schools that have these vacancies will not have to do without this service any longer. Hopefully, this will help those buildings that need this service. Because of this additional role, our Union's Executive Board has stepped in to help with any needs members may have. As part of this assistance, if you have an emergency and cannot reach Al, please feel free to contact one of the Executive Board Officers. These are their contacts:

- Joe Coulter: coultej@dearbornschools.org; 313-676-7178
- Laurie Kurth: kurthl@dearbornschools.org; 313-758-9337
- Kathy Rabadi: rabadik@dearbornschools.org; 313-682-4272
- Kyle West: westk@dearbornschools.org
- Dennis Burkholder: burkhod@dearbornschools.org
- Anna Munoz: amunoz278@gmail.com