

# FORWARD

The Official Newsletter of The Dearborn Federation of School Employees

1107 Washington Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124 313-274-5900

October 2023

Happy Halloween! On this last day of October, we hope you are able to enjoy the fun of Halloween. This day marks the beginning of some of our most anticipated holidays and puts us on the doorstep of Thanksgiving. Remember, this year our Thanksgiving Holiday begins on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>! We will have the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> off work. Normally, we get Thursday (Thanksgiving), Friday and the weekend for this break. This year we have added one extra day to the break. We hope you enjoy your time off.

Early release began on October 10<sup>th</sup>. How do you like it? So far, most of the responses we have gotten have been favorable to this arrangement. Let us know your thoughts.

## **MILLAGE! MILLAGE! MILLAGE!**

In early 2024, the district will schedule a renewal millage for a vote by the residents of Dearborn. This renewal is for money that pays our wages and salaries and is critical to the continued operation of the district with the current staffing levels. This millage is a renewal of approximately \$40 million and the failure of its passage would be catastrophic, possibly leading to layoffs. All the wage gains and job creations that have occurred in the past few months could be jeopardized if continued funding is not approved. This union will be promoting its passage and will make it a constant point of discussion during every union meeting in order to get the message out to our entire bargaining unit that this is an important matter that needs our attention. If you are a resident of Dearborn, and are employed by the district, it is in your best interest to approve of this renewal. If you are not a resident but know friends or have family that live in Dearborn, encourage them to support this renewal.

## **ELECTION YEAR**

This year is our biannual election of officers. Each officer has a term of two years, and the elections fall on odd-numbered years. Nominations are made during the November General Membership Meeting and the Election is held at December's. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact the union office for more information.

If you need assistance or have any questions and you need a fast response, please feel free to speak with one of our Executive Board members. These are their contacts:

Joe Coulter: [coultej@dearbornschools.org](mailto:coultej@dearbornschools.org) phone: 313-676-7178

Laurie Kurth: [kurthl@dearbornschools.org](mailto:kurthl@dearbornschools.org) phone: 313-758-9337

Kathy Rabadi: [rabadik@dearbornschools.org](mailto:rabadik@dearbornschools.org) phone: 313-682-4272

Kyle West: [westk@dearbornschools.org](mailto:westk@dearbornschools.org)

Dennis Burkholder: [burkhod@dearbornschools.org](mailto:burkhod@dearbornschools.org)

Anna Munoz: [amunoz278@gmail.com](mailto:amunoz278@gmail.com)

Tiffany Thomas: [pankeyt@dearbornschools.org](mailto:pankeyt@dearbornschools.org) phone: 734-788-2180

Our next *General Membership Meeting* will be on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**If you are interested in joining our union, please contact Kathy Rabadi, Tiffany Thomas or Al Lerini through their contacts listed above or call our office at: 313-274-5900.**

**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 encourage them to contact us.**

**Check out our website! The website address is [dfse4750.mi.aft.org](http://dfse4750.mi.aft.org)**

