

FORWARD

The Official Newsletter of The Dearborn Federation of School Employees

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

December 2023

We made it! Our long-awaited holiday break is finally here. Along with the Christmas and New Year Holiday comes rest, relaxation and the holiday dinners that many of us will be having with friends and family. During these fun and joyous occasions, we can enjoy the richness of the many conversations that take place at the dinner table. Some of these conversations will be of times past and the memories of those occasions. Some conversations will be about the future. Although we are living in the middle of charged political times in which many topics of conversation are considered “off-limits”, one topic you may wish to mention to your family and friends is to remind them that we have a school millage coming up in February and how important this millage is to the health of our schools and our community. If you are planning to vote to renew the millage, let others know of your intention. You may influence a voter who is undecided but looking for some guidance. As we know, our future is of our own making, and so it is important for us to work toward the future we wish to make. Enjoy your break, you deserve it, and have a happy and enjoyable time away from work.

SENIORITY LISTS

The new seniority lists have been sent to each of you through our school email. It is important that you check your seniority information in the list to make sure it is accurate and correct. If it is not, please contact Human Resources to make the correction. Those of you who have changed jobs or work locations recently may not have it reflected on the lists, but this would not be a reason to contact Human Resources. The accuracy of the seniority dates is what is most important. There are two lists for DFSE employees: A full-time and a part-time list. Be sure you are looking at the right list to find your name. The lists will contain your name, employee identification number, job date, seniority date, the number of hours

you work each day, the number of paychecks you receive in a year, your work location and your classification.

MILLAGE! MILLAGE! MILLAGE!

We are now two (2) months away from the February 27, 2024, vote on the millage renewal by the residents of Dearborn. The DFSE, is urging its members, who are residents of Dearborn, to get to the polls and vote on this very important matter. 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 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 RESULTS

The DFSE would like to thank all of you who took the time to cast your vote! For the Office of President, Al Lerini received 76 votes and Tiffany Thomas received 68 votes. Al Lerini was re-elected for a two-year term. We wish to congratulate Al on his election, and we wish to thank Tiffany for her hard work and dedication to our union. The other offices were filled by acclamation which means there does not need to be an election for those positions. We also wish to thank our Election Committee who organized and conducted the election. Laurie Kurth is the Chairperson of the Committee and Tameka Young, Angie Lorenzetti and Chelsea Jankowiak are Committee members. They did a wonderful job and ensured an open and transparent election.

THANK YOU, JOE!

Joe Coulter, our Vice-President, did not run for re-election and will be leaving our Executive Board in January. Joe has been a very dedicated union officer and has always made sure that each member of our union is treated with respect and kindness. In 2020, he served on our Custodial/BOS Committee that produced the first pay adjustment for custodians and boiler operators in many decades. He also was on the 2023-2028 DFSE Bargaining Committee which negotiated substantial wage increases for us. We wish Joe the very best of luck in his future and look forward to his success in other fields.

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Laurie Kurth: kurthl@dearbornschools.org phone: 313-758-9337

Kathy Rabadi: rabadik@dearbornschools.org phone: 313-682-4272

Kyle West: westk@dearbornschools.org

Dennis Burkholder: burkhod@dearbornschools.org

Anna Munoz: amunoz278@gmail.com

Tiffany Thomas: pankeyt@dearbornschools.org phone: 734-788-2180

Our next *General Membership Meeting* will be on January 11th, in room #12 at the ASC building, located at 18700 Audette Street in Dearborn. This meeting will begin at approximately 6:30 p.m. and will receive the results of the election and swear-in the new officers.

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

