



The VOICE

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A Publication of The Washington District Education Association

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Sara Hester, Editor (602) 347-4246

Meet the New Governing Board

Aaron Jahneke

Aaron Jahneke grew up in the Washington School District and attended Washington Elementary and Palo Verde Middle School before completing a Bachelor's of Arts in History from the University of Arizona. Aaron also earned his Master's of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Arizona State University after completing an institutional ethnography entitled "Local Grassroots Legislative Campaigning." Mr. Jahneke is a personal financial representative for Allstate Insurance Company. He is a trustee for the Washington Education Foundation, the District's non-profit organization. He is also a member of Support Our Schools AZ, a K-12 education advocacy group, and has served as the treasurer of the WESD K-3 Override Renewal Committee. Aaron captures his reason for pursuing a position on the governing board with the following: "I believe quality public education is the key to a stronger, safer, and more stable community. I want WESD students to get the best 21st century education possible so they have the same opportunities I have been so fortunate to have."

Submitted by: Nancy Putman, WDEA Membership Chair, School Board Contact Committee

Stayed Tuned! Next month we will feature Clorinda Graziano!

Did You Know?

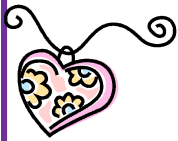
IBN Season is Here!

As you can imagine this year's IBN process will be like no other. When you consider both the financial realities at both the local and state level, this year's outcomes will not be about how to fairly distribute raises, but rather about protecting positions and programs.

Most of you are already aware that the state is facing a budget shortfall of \$1.6 billion for the current fiscal year. The most recent estimate of the 2009/2010 fiscal shortfall is in excess of \$3 billion. This stark reality looks bleaker when you remember that we have less Democrats and moderate Republicans in both the House and the Senate. In addition, we no longer have a proven friend of education as our Governor. These challenges are further compounded by the fact that WESD is facing some financial hardships of our own. Next year our budget will be decreased by approximately \$2.4 million dollars because of decreased ADM (average daily membership). This decrease also results in a decrease in other allocated funds that are distributed on a per pupil basis. In addition, we will face the loss of one-third of our K-3 Override funding. This is a loss of another \$1.8 million.

Given all these factors, IBN has decided to consider all salary and compensation issues as a large group. This will ensure that all perspectives are represented when we face tough decisions. We have also designated three subcommittees: 1) Communication, 2) Working Conditions and 3) Reduction in Force/Non-renewal. WDEA has high caliber representation in the room and a firm commitment to ensure fairness and equity while we work through a difficult time.

Please keep in touch with us throughout the process and make sure you respond to any requests for input. The list of contacts is on the back of this newsletter.



The Voice Continued



Education Day at the Capitol Get on the List Now!

As you are all probably well aware of by now, the state of Arizona is facing some drastic and difficult budget cuts. Recent reports indicate leadership in both the House and Senate are recommending education cuts that could result in a reduction of \$1,000 per pupil. You have the perfect opportunity to visit with your state legislators and demand they not make any cuts to the education budget at AEA Education Day at the Capitol on March 4, 2009. Our state is already 49th in spending per student, let's not make it 50th!

AEA Education Day is an annual event where teachers, support professionals, parents, administrators, and governing board members meet with legislators and share their concerns and stories. Participants also get opportunities to see the Senate and House in action and eat lunch with legislators from their home legislative district. The Senate and House Education Committee meetings can also be observed.

This is your chance to speak up and make a difference for education! Each year, WDEA takes a team to Education Day. If this is something you are interested in being a part of or have questions about, contact Susan Clark from Washington School at susanclark515@yahoo.com.

If you are unable to join us, you are encouraged to write letters to your legislators and the team will take them to Education Day and deliver them. Together we can send a message to our legislators to protect the education budget!

To sign up for the AEA Legislative Update, please go to: <http://capwiz.com/nea/az/mlm/signup> .

To write a letter to your legislators, please go to:

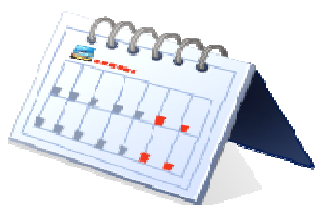
<http://capwiz.com/nea/az/dbq/officials/directory/directory.dbq?command=statedir&state=AZ> .

Calendar

Dates:

February 8	WEF Bowl-A-Thon
February 9-13	Parent Teacher Conferences
February 12	Governing Board Meeting
February 16	No School, President's Day
February 24	WDEA Rep Council Meeting
February 26	Governing Board Meeting

If you would like more information on any of these events, please contact your Building Representative.



IBN Contacts

Nina K. LaPine	Special Education Rep & RIF/ Non-renewal Subcommittee
Seith Lewis	5 th /6 th Grade Rep & Working Condition Subcommittee
Darrin Squire	Special Areas/Middle School Rep & Communication Subcommittee
Sheryl Kronenberg	WDEA Resource & Communication Subcommittee
Angie Taylor	WDEA Classified Resource & Working Conditions Subcommittee
Joslyn Brown	WDEA Trainee & Working Conditions Subcommittee
Carolyn Naylor	Working Conditions Subcommittee
Helen Ciba	Working Conditions Subcommittee