

THE SCHOOL BELL

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MEA ELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Michigan Education Association recommends pro-public education candidates Jennifer Granholm and John Cherry in the November 5 election.

Attorney General Granholm is the recommended gubernatorial candidate of the MEA, which represents nearly 163,000 members. State Senator Cherry is her lieutenant governor running mate.

The MEA-PAC Statewide Screening and Recommendation Committee met Thursday and Friday (September 5-6) to interview candidates for statewide offices and contested judicial races. The general election is November 5.

"We were very impressed by the number and quality of candidates," said MEA President Lu Battaglieri, who is chairperson of the screening committee. "We had difficult decisions to make. The slate of candidates recommended by the MEA will support public schools, which educate the vast majority of Michigan students."

Senator Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, is recommended in his bid for attorney general. Election attorney Melvin "Butch" Hollowell, also a Democrat, is recommended for secretary of state.

"We are thankful for the MEA members who spent considerable time reviewing the credentials and ideas of the candidates," Battaglieri said. "They have recommended a strong list of candidates who will work hard to help all public school students succeed."

Other recommended candidates include:

*Justice Elizabeth Weaver and Judge Maggie W. Drake for Supreme Court.

*Elizabeth W. Bauer and State Rep. Nancy Quarles for State Board of Education

*Colleen McNamara and Donald Nugent for Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

*Ishmal Ahmed and State Rep. Andrew Richner for University of Michigan Board of Regents.

*Richard Bernstein and Leon Atchison for Wayne State University Board of Governors.

*James G. Cavanagh for 4th Court of Appeals.

*Hugh B. Clarke Jr. and Judge Beverly Nettles-Nickerson for Ingham County 30th Circuit Court.

BUMPY ROADS AHEAD

THREE RIVERS, MI ---Mendon teachers remain on the MEA critical list and will be in mediation on October 1. Lewis Cass Intermediate School District teachers were added to the critical list September 16. The ISD administration has declared impasse on health insurance issues and faces Unfair Labor Practice charges for surface bargaining and premature declaration of impasse.

Local bargaining units are placed on the critical list when negotiations become difficult or if the bargaining process is likely to be prolonged. Being placed on the MEA Critical List qualifies the Mendon teachers for special help during bargaining up to and including strike funds if necessary.

The Mendon Education Association, which represents the teachers, is considering an Unfair Labor Practice charge against the Board of Education for surface bargaining. This stems from the board avoiding actual bargaining by adopting a firm bargaining position early in the process with little or no change in the position despite concessions by the union.

Several issues remain on the table; however, the biggest stumbling block to agreement remains salary. "The Board has offered the teachers a pay freeze," said Chambers. "Such an action is not in the best interest of the District in regards to retaining good teachers and

coaches and does little to attract the best new teachers. The Board's stance is not good for public education in Mendon." The Mendon Community Schools currently employ 49 teachers.

Lewis Cass teachers are shocked at the lack of good faith the ISD administration is showing. "The new Superintendent has constantly complimented the ISD teaching staff," said MEA Uniserv Director Paul Chambers. "But then he and the board turn around and file a premature impasse – the money is not where the mouth is." The Lewis Cass ISD employs 15 certified teachers and professional service providers.

Letters of support, letters to the editor in support of these units should be sent to the following administrators and board members:

Mendon EA

Glenn Oxender, Superintendent
Mendon Community Schools
26393 Kirby Rd.
Mendon, MI 49072

Roger Cupp, President
Mendon Board of Education
57551 Walterspaugh Rd.
Mendon, MI 49072

Lewis Cass ISD EA

Kevin Magin, Superintendent
Lewis Cass Intermediate School District
61682 Dailey Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Don Curtis, President
Lewis Cass ISD Board of Education
88541 CR652
Marcellus, MI 49067

Letters to Editor:

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South Bend Tribune

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Sturgis Journal

Education Writer
209 John St., P.O. Box 6060
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-652-5407
269-651-2296 FAX

Upcoming Calendar:

September 24-26	Core Training – Paul Chambers
October 10	Certification Training –MEA office
October 12	150 th MEA Celebration Kick-off
October 15-16	Statewide Staff Meeting (All Staff)
November 7	Handling of Grievances Training –MEA Office
November 9	Fall Representative Assembly
November 12	SMEA Board of Governors Meeting
December 11	SMEA Christmas "Open House"
December 18-Jan 5	Vacation/Christmas Break/Glenna
December 16-Jan 5	Vacation/Christmas Break/Paul

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