

GREEN SHEET

Official Newsletter • Dearborn Federation of Teachers • AFT Local 681, AFL-CIO
15250 Mercantile Drive, Dearborn, Michigan 48120 • 313/584-5311 • FAX 313/584-3232
www.dft681.org email: dft@dft681.org

June 2007

Dearborn, MI

General Membership Meetings

Meetings held at the DFT office unless noted otherwise

September 2008

23 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

October 2008

10 Fall Party (Park Place) 7:00 P.M.

14 Building Reps 4:00 P.M.

28 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

November 2008

25 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

January 2009

13 Building Reps 4:00 P.M.

27 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

February 2009

24 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

March 2009

10 B Reps/Banquet 4:00 P.M.

24 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

April 2009

28 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

May 2009

12 Building Reps 4:00 P.M.

26 General Membership 4:00 P.M.

June 2008

3 Year - End Celebration (Park Place)
3:00 P.M.

DFT Summer Hours

The DFT office will be open full time until June 26th. The office is closed the week of June 30th. Beginning July 8th, the office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We will open back up full time (7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) August 18th.

Have a peaceful and restful summer. Members report back to work on August 25, 8 am to their respective buildings.

New Grading Policy for High

The June 9th DPS School Board meeting included a presentation on a proposal to change the way high school students in the district are graded.

The new policy favors basing grades more heavily on what students know and can demonstrate rather than the homework they turn in, or their participation in a given class.

A committee of teachers, administrators and Dr. Artis was formed to look at ways to revise and modify the current method of grading. One of the initial concerns of this committee was to align the grading in all of our high schools. Rationale behind this was to find a way to ensure that an A from Dearborn High was an A from Fordson and Edsel Ford.

The basis of this new system, put forth by Dr. Gail Shenkman, is anchored by summative and formative evaluations. Summative evaluation is the culmination of what the student has learned and can demonstrate, while a formative evaluation can best be described as homework, quizzes, and participation.

Dr. Shenkman, in reporting on a committee recommendation, suggested that the overall grade would be based upon a blending of the two types of assessments, on a 80%/20% ratio. 80% of the students grade would be based on the summative evaluation, which could include projects, essays and an end of the year/semester exam.

Congratulations Retirees!

Sherry Ansett
39 years – Howe

Carol Bocskay
36 1/3 years - Dearborn

Kathleen Boettcher
33 1/2 years – Long

Catherine Boucher
29 years – Bryant

Diane Cookinham
11 years - Edsel Ford

Steve Curry
18 3/4 years - O.L. Smith

Leslie Eller
16 3/4 years – Maples

Linda Guinn
34 3/4 years – Stout

Robert Haffey
12 years – Woodworth

Marybeth Jarosz
13 3/4 years – Dearborn

Marianne Linderman
23 years – ASC

Connie Miller
22 years McCollough/Unis

David Roberts
20 1/2 years - Edsel Ford/Berry Career Center

Connie Zimmerman
12 1/2 years - Henry Ford

Grievances

A grievance filed on behalf of an elementary teacher whose planning time has been used for grade level meetings has been moved to the Board level. At this time, the Union is awaiting a hearing date.

A final grievance has been filed on behalf of high school teachers who the Union believes have been improperly surplused from their building. This group grievance has been heard at the Superintendent's level. A decision is due by June 27th. The outcome of this action could effect not only surplus, but layoffs.

Jeffery Oshnock , Editor

Payroll Changes for 2008—09

Beginning with the August 29th pay check, DFT members will see changes in what their checks look like. Depending upon the frequency of pay, either 10 month or 12 month, your salary and deductions will be calculated a little differently.

The Payroll/Benefits department has sent members several emails, outlining how gross salaries and the various deductions will be calculated as we make this changeover.

With regard to the payroll change to biweekly, copies of the communications sent previously will be posted on our website, www.dft681.org.

Following are a few comments and notes based on the feedback received by payroll.

- Tax withholding – if you are having extra taxes withheld from your pay, the additional taxes will be adjusted in the same method as deductions other than TSA's are being calculated. The annual amount will be calculated and divided by the number of pays occurring in a normal year.
- Partial Direct Deposits will also be adjusted as described above. The annual amount will be calculated and divided by the number of pays occurring in a normal year.
- Starting Fall 2008 Mileage reimbursements made through payroll will be processed every payday, not just once a month.
- Union dues will be deducted only in the first 20 pay checks of a given school year. The yearly amount will remain \$590 for the 2008—09 school year.

Most importantly – if you need your deductions changed in some other manner than the process described above, you must communicate it to us by Friday, August 22 so that we have time to process it. Accordingly, if you turn in any salary reduction agreements or direct deposit changes between now and then, please be specific as to when they should go into effect.

Member Focus Credit Union (formerly Dearborn Schools Credit Union) has asked that we remind you to consider the impact changing from being paid monthly to being paid biweekly will have on automatic deductions from your credit union account. Some deductions are triggered by a payroll deposit being made. At Member Focus (313.581.2002) these can be changed to be a monthly transfer. There will be a form you can download on our website that can be turned into the credit union to make these changes.

Contact your bank or credit union if this applies to you. The Payroll Department will not be able to help with deductions made from your bank account.