



REP COUNCIL UPDATE

March 13, 2018

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Hot Topics from the President...

Governor Murphy provided his first budget address on March 13, 2018. In his address he indicated his desire to provide full school funding over the course of his administration. On March 15, 2018 the 2018 school funding numbers were released. East Brunswick Public Schools will realize a 3.1% increase in school aid amounting to an additional \$556,987 with a total amount of \$18,761,697. Governor Murphy also is calling for an expansion of pre-k programs in public schools as well as an investment in free community college. The Governor hopes that in four years all students will be able to attend, for free, public pre-k through community college. Additionally, the Governor has placed \$3.2 million, an all time high, into the pension system. This is certainly a welcomed initiative as our pension system, our deferred compensation, has been grossly underfunded for decades.

"I do not have a magic wand capable of making everything whole again in one budget. But, I am committed to continuing to ramp up our payments until we get there – in this budget, a total of \$3.2 billion – an all-time high. We will make this payment honestly and in good faith."

– Governor Phil Murphy

There also has been talk of eliminating PARCC testing in our schools. This has been an incredible financial burden on school districts and has placed undue stress on students. Of course, PARCC scores directly relate to the summary evaluation scores for teachers via SGPs. Stay tuned for more information on this. The Governor's address can be read in its entirety:

http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/addresses/approved/20180313_budget.shtml

Upcoming Events

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- March 22 – How to Write a SGO workshop 1:00-4:30pm, Pierre's in Monmouth Junction
 - March 27 -EBEF Annual Partner In Excellence Dinner; Pines Manor, Edison
 - March 28- EBEA Social "Inside/Outside Golf; Topgolf, Edison 4-7pm
 - April 3 – MCEA NJ Devils vs NY Rangers Hockey game, bus departs 5pm
 - April 14 – Grand Opening of the "Bear Necessities Clothing Den"
 - April 16 – EBEA Scholarship Fund – Dine to Donate; Panera Bread, EB; 4-8pm MUST present flier (on website)
 - April 17 – MCEA Autism Workshop; MCEA office; 5-7pm
 - April 19 – How to Write a SGO workshop; Pierre's, South Brunswick; 4-7pm
 - April 20 – MCEA Black Tie Gala; Renaissance Hotel, Woodbridge
 - April 21 – NJEA Exceptional Children Conference; Ocean Place Resort, Long Branch
 - April 22 – Workers' Memorial Day Rally/March
 - April 25 – EBEA Spring Fling Social; Ria Mar, South River; 4-7pm
 - May 8 – MCEA Teacher Appreciation Member Benefits Fair & Social; Grand Marquis; 5-8:30pm. 2017 & 2018 Teacher of the Year are Guest of Honor, all members invited
 - May 15 – MCEA Workshop XYZs of Retirement; The Grand Marquis; 4:30pm
 - May 15 – MCEA workshop Digital Citizenship; MCEA office; 5-7pm
 - June 3 – EBEA Day at Monmouth Park Horse Track
 - June 6 – District Retirement Celebration
- (all information can be found on our website at www.my-ebear.org)

What You Need to Know...

- **Negotiations...** We have met four times with the Board of Education (BOE) to discuss non-financial and financial proposals. Our next meeting is April 16, 2018. Please continue to look for the purple **EBEA Negotiations Update** for more information.
- **The East Brunswick Public Schools Wall of Honor** ceremony will take place on April 26, 2018 at 8:00pm. Please join us as we celebrate the newest inductees!
- **From District Wide Council...** The Assessment Task force met in March and will be meeting again in April. A productive conversation was held at this meeting. Stay tuned for more information in April. Concerns were raised about the bus line-up at EBHS at the end of the school day. Drivers have been given directives requires them to block the crosswalks and does not give buses room to move in an emergency; this will be investigated. Irwin school keycard machine in the back of the building still does not work, this will be investigated. A security update was given. EB Police are in all buildings and SSOs are also present. The security plan will be reviewed at the end of the school year for next year. Concerns were presented regarding a large number of staff at Warnsdorfer and EBHS who do not have keys for doors within the school. This is a security concern. It was reported that is not practical to give keys to all staff members and an alternative solution is being developed. Concerns about the inaccurate clocks within the district were discussed. The clocks are old but the district will look into a possible Wi-Fi solution.
- **From the ESP Committee...** The committee and EBEA PRIDE are sponsoring a dance for special needs students grade 9-12. While the students are enjoying themselves, the parents will participate in an information fair which focuses on resources that are available when students age out of the public schools.
- **From the Nominations Committee...** EBEA elections will be held on April 11, 2018. Voting will take place in each building and will be arranged via the chief building rep.
- **From the TEAT committee...** There is a possibility of Title 2 Federal grant money being cut which may impact summer workshop opportunities and hybrid courses for staff. Money for PD is running low. Please DO NOT pay for a workshop without first receiving approval. You must follow the protocol to ensure you will be reimbursed. Please enter your evaluation data in the EBEA database on the EBEA website. The TEAT news brief has been distributed to all buildings.
- **From the Scholarship committee...** Please participate in the "Dine to Donates" on March 20 -MJs and April 16 – Panera. Flyers are on our website.

Actions You Need to Take...

1. The **Bear Necessities Clothing Den** (EBEA office) **Grand Opening** will be April 14, 2018, from 9-11 am. We are collecting school aged clothing (Pre-K thru Grade 12), new undergarments, footwear, seasonal clothing, book bags, semi-formal, and formal wear. Please drop off your donations to the EBEA office.
If you would like to sign up to assist please complete our survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EBEABearDenGrandOpening>
2. Sign up for the **How to Write Your SGOs** Workshops held from 1:00-4:30pm on March 22, 2018 and on April 19, 2018 from 4:00-7:00pm; both at Pierre's in Monmouth Junction. Mike Ritzius, NJEA Associate Director of Professional Development will be presenting. *Fliers have been distributed!*
3. Sign up for the EBEA Social **Inside/Outside Golf** at TOPGOLF in Edison on March 28, 2018 at <http://my-ebea.org/community/events/> Registration begins at 4:15pm and golf bays are open from 4:30- 6:30pm. A buffet dinner of chicken tenders, pulled pork, fruit, chips, cookies and soft drinks begins at 5:00pm. A cash bar is also available.
4. All EBEA/MCEA members who have high school seniors are encouraged to have you child complete the application/essay for the Paul DiMitriadis Memorial Fund Scholarship. The scholarship is \$1000 and applications are due April 6, 2018. The application is on our website at <http://my-ebea.org/community/events/>
5. NJEA online webinars for "Pension" and "Degrees not Debt" – visit <https://www.njea.org/events/category/njea>
6. Sign up for the Workers' Memorial Day Rally/March – Join EBEA as we rally for health and safety within our buildings. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/workers-dayrally>