



West Hartford Public Schools

As we go through this tough year, we need to take a look at our school system and all the positive attributes it has. It is ranked as one of the top school systems in Connecticut. The West Hartford Public Schools are ranked 17th in 2017 Best School District in CT from www.niche.com. The factors include academics, diversity, teachers, college readiness, clubs and activities, health and safety. For high school level Conard ranked 16 and Hall 22. They looked at SAT/ACT scores, student teacher ratio, quality of college, student consideration and reviews from students & parents. For the middle school level Bristow, King Philip and Sedgwick all scored an A. All of the elementary school scored an A+ or A. The 2017 District Best Teachers in CT WHPS ranked 15 out of 115, based on statistics, and opinions of students and parents. We continue with the WHEA Mission Statement to unlock the potential of every child through education.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

YOUR 2016-2017 OFFICERS:

President

Ted Goerner

Executive V.P.

Thomas Devine

Administrative V.P.

David Simon

Treasurer

Michelle Lacroix

Editor

Joyce Bogdan

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WHEA, CEA & NEA News

Ethnic Affairs Social Event

The Ethnic Affairs Social Event was held on Friday, February 24, 2017 from 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM. The group met for dinner and conversation in the MultiPurpose Room at Sedgwick Middle School. Lara White, WHEA Ethnic Affairs Chair said, "It was a wonderful evening of community, conversation, and commitment to change."

Political

On Saturday, January 21, 2017 WHEA participated in the Women's March. Two buses brought WHEA members and their families to join the many people who were marching at the State Capitol. There were at least 10,000 people at the Hartford March. Some WHEA members also attended marches in other cities. Thank you to CEA for allowing our members to use their building to organize.

CEA Hartford County Forum was held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at The Lodge at Maneeley's in South Windsor. CEA presents old and new business with reports from the officers and committees. Several WHEA members attended.

On Tuesday, February 21, 2017 Senator Chris Murphy was at Town Hall meeting with constituents. Over 2000 people attended in the auditorium, in the overflow room and outside. He was there to speak about issues, listen and respond to questions. Several WHEA members attended.

A public forum was held on March 9, 2017 at Charter Oak International Academy. It was held by the West Hartford's Legislative Delegation and the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford and featured the State legislators representing West Hartford. The budget forum was to discuss the impacts of Governor Dannel Malloy's proposed budget and its impact on West Hartford. Our four representatives to the State General Assembly, Senator Beth Bye and Representatives Andy Feischmann, Joe Verrengia and Derek Slap, were there. They listened to constituents explaining how the budget that Governor Malloy proposed will have significant impact on students and classrooms in West Hartford. All of us need to continue to call and write to our town representatives.



WHEA, CEA & NEA News cont.

Upcoming Events

WHEA elections for executive officers will take place on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Be sure to vote for WHEA officers.

The Hartford Wolf Pack vs. the Springfield Thunderbirds are scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2017. WHEA will be there! Come join WHEA members and attend the Social at the XL Center. The game time is 7:15 PM and tickets are \$12.00. Contact Eric Feeney to enjoy the fun!

WHEA will present a workshop *Knowledge is the Best Protection: Preventing & Responding to Assaults by Students* on Tuesday, April 18 from 4 PM until 5:40 PM. On Thursday, May 11, 2017 a workshop on Teacher Retirement will be presented at 4 PM until 6 PM. Both workshops will be held at Sedgwick in the MultiPurpose Room. Robyn Kaplan Cho, CEA Retirement Specialist, will present.

The WHEA/WHAA 57th Annual Recognition Dinner will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017 at the Farmington Club, 162 Town Farm Rd., Farmington, CT from 5:30 PM until 10 PM. The annual Recognition Dinner gives us an opportunity to honor our retiring colleagues, the Citizen of the Year, the Member of the Year, and the Teacher of the Year. More information and reservation details to come. Save the Date!





WHEA, CEA & NEA News cont.

Communication

If you have an upcoming event in your classroom or school, CEA would like to know. They would like to feature your stories in the *CEA Advisor!* You can contact Nancy Andrews at nancy@cea.org or Lesia Winiarskyj at lesiaw@cea.org or contact Joyce Bogdan, CEA PR Chair.

There are several ways to keep up with the latest information from WHEA and CEA. WHEA has several avenues of communication. We have the WHEA website at www.whea.org. You can sign up for the blog and receive the latest information and read *WHEA World*. Like us on our new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/West-Hartford-Education-Association-WHEA-1182513598536131/>. In addition if you would like to receive additional political information you can send your email to Ted Goerner.

CEA has their Facebook page. Like them at <https://www.facebook.com/CTEdAssoc/> or sign up for weekly updates at www.BlogCEA.org. CEA is part of *CTED Watch*, Connecticut's Source for Public Education published by Teacher Policy Institute at www.CTEDWatch.org. You can sign up to subscribe to their list.

CEA Upcoming Events

CEA Representative Assembly (R/A) will be held on Friday, May 5 after school, and Saturday, May 6 at the CT Convention Center, Hartford, CT. This is the largest decision making meeting of the year. It is important to attend. Delegates vote for the next CEA President and Vice President, the CEA budget and a wide variety of other business items. If you would like to be a delegate contact Ted Goerner. For more information see www.cea.org/about/ra/.

CEA's Robyn Kaplan Cho will present the workshop: *Planning for the Future: Pension Issues for Early Career Teachers* on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM. It will take place at DePaolo Middle School in Southington, CT. For more information and to register go to www.cea.org/ click upcoming events.

CEA Summer Leadership will be held on Monday, July 31 through Wednesday, August 2, 2017 at Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT. Join WHEA and CEA colleagues and attend a variety of workshops.

NEA Representative Assembly R/A will be held In Boston, MA on Saturday, July 1 through Wednesday, July 5, 2017. If you are interested in attending this important R/A contact Ted Goerner.



Your Credit



Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union

All West Hartford Public Schools staff, employees, volunteers, and students are eligible for membership in Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union. The credit union offers a wide variety of products and services, including savings accounts, checking accounts, loans, mortgages, credit cards, debit cards, direct deposit, and on-line banking. In addition, they are part of a network of over 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs nationwide.

Franklin Trust was founded as a teachers' credit union in 1934. Now the fourth oldest federal credit union in the country, they are celebrating their 77th anniversary this year.

The credit union's main office is at 632 Franklin Avenue in Hartford. For more information, including a form that allows you to sign up through the mail, call Franklin Trust at (860) 296-4379, ext. 203. They can be found on the web at www.franklintrust.org, as well as on Facebook and MySpace.

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Quick Tips

Quote:

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, *What are you doing for others?*"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Check out upcoming events, e-mail addresses for officers at www.whea.org.
- Attend your building rep's monthly 10-minute meetings. Stay informed!
- Check out the home mailings from NEA and CEA. If you are not receiving them contact your building rep.
- Check out the Member Benefits pages at www.nea.org and www.cea.org.
- Stay informed with school policies and information by visiting www.whps.org.
- Read "WHEA World" at www.whea.org. To add your news, please email the PR Chair.
- Watch for your news in upcoming editions.
- Questions, concerns? Talk to your building rep.
- Check the website for the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools Grants at www.fwhps.org.

Current Issues

National



President Donald J. Trump appointed Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of Education. She was approved by a 1 vote margin. On Thursday, March 9, 2017 the Senate passed Senate Joint Resolution 25. It eliminates regulations that tell how states need to carry out the federal law that held schools accountable for student performance under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The vote was 50 to 49. It goes to the House next and if it passes there it goes to the President for his signature.

State News

Governor Dannel Malloy proposed the State budget including shifting a third of teacher's pension costs onto communities. He also proposed dramatically cutting West Hartford's State Education Cost Sharing Grant (ECS) money. In the proposal West Hartford stands to lose \$14.5 million for ECS and the added cost of \$8 million for pensions totaling \$22.5 million. The proposal goes to legislators. The state budget will probably not be done until August. Be sure to write to your legislators opposing the governors proposed budget.

Current Issues cont.

Local News



Tom Moore, West Hartford Superintendent of Schools, gave public testimony at the State Capital. See the video clip at <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=13767>.

The Superintendent's Budget presentation to the Board of Education was on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. See links at www.whps.org/page.cfm?p=4321. The Board of Education will have budget workshops at Town Hall at 7 PM on Wednesday, March 15 and the scheduled Board meeting with a workshop on Tuesday, March 21. The Council and Board Forum will be on Thursday, March 23 at Charter Oak International Academy at 6 PM. On Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall there will be a Public Hearing and Wednesday, March 29 a Public Hearing and workshop at 7 PM. On Tuesday, April 4 the Board will vote on the budget and on Tuesday, April 25 the Town Council adopts the budget.