



## KALAMAZOO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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### President's Report: September

1. The SRO (School Reform Officer) threatens to close schools based on test scores that Districts were promised would not be used until three years of valid data could be gathered.

Various organizations representing MI school administrators (Dr. Rice included), school boards, MEA and AFT are fighting the privatization of public education. Since these organizations began fighting back, the SRO has backed away from her aggressive stance, saying a smaller number of schools will face closure. Regardless of the number, it is wrong to make this type of decision based on flawed information and broken promises. Steve Cook, MEA President said, "Closing schools and threatening dedicated school employees does nothing to help children or improve struggling schools-most of which operate in impoverished areas in need of investment and support."

The Governor moved the SRO from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), which is under the oversight of the Democrat-controlled State Board of Education, to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget under his control. Go to our new website <http://www.kalamazooea.org/home.html> and click on MEA at the bottom to sign up for Capital Comments to receive updates.

2. Join KEA in the National Walk Ins – October 6<sup>th</sup>

KEA will participate again in the Walk Ins to express that we are "More than just a score" and legislators should "Ask us" (the professionals) when forming educational policy. Great things are going on in KPS and we will continue those great results with our students!

3. KEA will hold a Screening and Recommendation for the 6 KPS Board of Education Candidates

on Wednesday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – look for KEA recommendations coming soon

4. Our 2016-17 contract has been ratified!

The contract is posted on our website <http://www.kalamazooea.org> for viewing and will be printed as soon as the team completes the proof reading. Look for an email to order your hard copy soon.

5. KEA/KPS negotiated calendar is now on Google

Go to this link <http://www.kalamazooea.org/kea-kps-negotiated-calendar.html> for your negotiated school calendar on our website.

This change was made to improve the way in which calendar information is distributed. Now, there will be one version that always reflects the most up to date information.

**It can be printed in agenda format for those who want a hard copy.**

6. KEA has 17 new organizers!

This was made possible through a grant from NEA this summer. They attended new hire orientation and signed up 36/36 new hires! They will help organize the Walk Ins, sign up new hires and other things.

7. Dues, dues, and more dues!

Please help the KEA by using your checking or savings account to pay by auto debit. KEA spends a lot of time and money collecting dues from members who want to pay but have had an expired or compromised credit or debit card. To switch, go to <http://www.mea.org/> click on my edues, then payment method, then add payment method, and finally ACH. If you need assistance contact the MEA Help Center at 1-866-632-4357.

By paying in full, you will earn a \$30 rebate from the MEA.

Dues are pulled on the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month from Sept. through June.

If you are on a payment plan, MEA now gives you the option to have the payments taken through auto pay.

8. KEA has new email addresses

Make sure our emails aren't landing in your spam or clutter inbox.

Amanda Miller – KEA President- [president@kalamazooea.org](mailto:president@kalamazooea.org)

Stephanie Escobedo- KEA Administrative Assistant- [adminassist@kalamazooea.org](mailto:adminassist@kalamazooea.org)

9. Are you part of the Secret KEA Facebook page yet?

You can't search this page. Have a fellow member in good standing add you and you will then be approved if you are a member in good standing.

10. Connect with us!

-Like us on Facebook – Kalamazoo Education Association -

<https://www.facebook.com/KzooEA/?fref=ts>

-Capitol Comments (legislative updates) and the MEA Voice-

-Go to <http://www.mea.org/mea-voice-online> and choose E-newsletter sign up on the left side.

-Bill Tracker- check out the status of the current bills on the floor...

<http://www.mea.org/issues-and-legislation>

-Dr. Michelson- Text Follow DrMichelson to 40404 to receive updates from the floor of the state capitol while they happen!

-NEA.org <http://www.nea.org/> sign up for Lily's Blackboard on the right side for great updates on current education news!

11. KEA is pleased to have 98% of its bargaining unit as devoted members!

Click here [www.mea.org/advantage](http://www.mea.org/advantage) and scroll down to see your multiple member benefits. Pay special attention to the legal services link.

12. Local Leaders Working Hard All Summer for you!

Your 5 NEA Delegates attended the RA in Washington DC over the 4th of July. They spent 7 days as part of the NEA voice that is 3 million members strong! They tackled issues like toxic testing, equity in education and social justice.

Go here to check out what happened! <http://ra.nea.org/> or ask them.