

March President's Report

Prepared by: Amanda Miller president@kalamazooea.org

- **Threat of School Closure off for now-as long as districts agree to partner with the state to improve**
 - According to Chalkbeat (an independent nonprofit news organization telling the story of education in America): State superintendent Brian Whiston sent letters this week to eight school districts that have schools on the closure list inviting them to participate in a “partnership” to fix the schools instead of shutting them down.
 - “Once an agreement is reached,” the letter says, “The School Reform Office (SRO) has agreed to delay any next level of accountability actions in order to give the Partnership Model an opportunity to be successful.”
 - A spokesman for the state education department said the eight districts that got the letter were Benton Harbor, Bridgeport-Spaulding, Kalamazoo, Muskegon Heights, Pontiac, River Rouge, Saginaw and the Detroit Public School Community School District
 - The letter that went to the Detroit schools included both the 16 schools on the list that are currently part of the city district as well as the eight schools that are now in the state-run Education Achievement Authority, the education department spokesman said. The EAA schools are expected to return to the district this summer.
 - Go here to view the letter that was sent:
<http://www.chalkbeat.org/posts/detroit/2017/03/03/the-threatened-closure-of-38-michigan-schools-could-be-off-if-districts-agree-to-partner-with-the-state-to-improve/>
 - MEA has teamed up with other associations to prepare for a legal battle if any schools are closed.
 - KEA supported a Community Forum on 2-24-17 by the NAACP to Save Our Schools – Watch for next steps
 - Continue to contact legislators, we don’t want the legislators, Governor or SRO to forget that these are our schools!
 - Your home email has talking points for you to help stop the SRO from considering WWA and WSTAR for closure.
- **Negotiations**
 - Your team has been appointed
 - Negotiations advisory representative have met twice to put together a survey that will go out to members as soon as possible.
 - Make sure to fill this out to have your input recorded
- **Last KEA Flex PD for this year!**
 - MEA Cultural Diversity 3pm and again at 4:30pm- April 26th

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- **Committee Updates**

- Testing Committee
 - KEA advocated for testing audits in grades K-8 and got the District to agree. The meetings have been held. Members shared which assessments are helpful, which are not and suggestions for improvements.
 - District is now compiling the information for next steps.
 - Many good suggestions were given and the meetings were a good start to having conversations surrounding testing in our schools.
- KEA Kool Committee
 - Committee met with KPS on March 8th to ask questions

- **Get involved!**

- KEA has one open position: Political Action Chair

- **Political Update**

- Be on the lookout for anti-public school legislation!
 - For example:



March 5, 2017

Trump calls for national voucher program

In his nationally televised address to Congress earlier this week, President Trump reiterated his call for a massive national voucher program. Ironically, the proposal comes at the same time as a [wave of research](#) showing that the three largest voucher programs - in Indiana, Louisiana, and Ohio - are hurting rather than helping students. President Trump has promised to create a \$20 billion voucher program, which could take the form of tuition tax credits or divert money from Title I and other programs for disadvantaged students. In the next two weeks, he will also propose a budget expected to include a \$54 billion increase in defense spending and massive cuts in discretionary programs like education, environmental protection, and foreign aid. Click on the take action button and tell Congress to reject vouchers and tuition tax credits that drain resources from public schools.

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