



BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2009

UNITY...NOW MORE THAN EVER

Association Events HIGHLIGHTS

(For a complete listing of Association events, see the TABCO website)
September 24: Representative Assembly, 4:00, Parkville HS cafeteria
September 28: Yom Kippur—schools closed, TABCO office 9 to 5
September 29: Home Buyers Workshop 4:30, Loch Raven HS cafeteria
October 3: Sponsoring Towson Univ. SEA at Towson football game
October 6: Special Education Forum 4:30, Loch Raven HS cafeteria
October 8: Estate Planning Workshop
October 14: MSEA Delegate Caucus 4:30, Parkville HS cafeteria
October 16 & 17: MSEA Convention, Ocean City
October 22: Representative Assembly, 4:00, Parkville HS cafeteria

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

TUTORS: Subject area teachers needed to tutor secondary math, chemistry, physics, biology, SAT prep., English, reading, Spanish, French, Latin, special education, and elementary subjects. Please contact professional tutoring service@comcast.net or 410-486-3464.

TABCO TUTOR REFERRALS: The Association is often contacted by parents seeking tutors. To have your name included on the TABCO list, email Stacie Strickland, sstrickland@mseanea.org. Include your name, school, contact number and subjects that you wish to tutor.

DISCLAIMER: TABCO assumes no responsibility for representations made or services performed in advertisements published here.




KIDCARE UPDATE Our educators really care...consider this: by September 10th of this current school year KidCare had disbursed \$4,440 to 111 students. Thanks to all those who regularly contribute to this charity—remember, TABCO administers this fund at no cost, so every cent goes to our needy students. Please consider donating!

2009-2010 TABCO Calendar/Planner

TABCO building reps will have a “starter” quantity of the annual calendar/planner booklets available for members. Reps may order additional copies from the TABCO office. These handy planners contain information on member benefits as well as frequently used numbers and other Association information. Available for a limited time.

ASSOCIATION WEBSITES:
 NEA www.nea.org MSEA www.mseanea.org
 TABCO www.tabco.org

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410-828-6403 fax: 410-337-7081			
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TABCO Office Hours: MONDAY—THURSDAY, 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. ~FRIDAY—9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.			



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No more free lunches: time to collect their fair share

Angela Leitzer, Bulletin Editor
 There are a considerable number of folks who are working alongside us each day, sharing the salary increases, the rights to fair treatment and negotiated working conditions, benefitting from the same medical coverage...and they are letting us pay their way.

They are saying, in effect, that they don't mind the free ride. Would you go out to dinner with them? When time comes to split the bill, would you smile agreeably and pay their share? If they came to you and asked for the school supplies that you purchased for your classroom, would you hand them over? If they told you they'd like you to pay for the gasoline they use to get to school, would you accompany them to the pump?

It isn't that much of an exaggeration. You are paying for their share of the office space at TABCO, their share of the salaries of the staff there, their share of the paper on which the Master Agreement is printed—and the list goes on.

As long as this continues to be so easy for them, we will fail to meet the 80% membership requirement that would entitle us to charge an agency fee to those who choose not to pay their share.

There are some who say that they can't join TABCO because, although their consciences don't bother them when it comes to taking without paying their share, they object to certain positions taken by the NEA convention delegates or they disagree with some of the Association's political endorsements. Let's clear this up.

Not a penny of dues money goes to political candidates. Only the monies collected through free-will contributions to the political action fund are used to promote endorsed candidates. Further-

See "No more free lunches," page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Collaboration to produce streamlined data tool a major goal this year



Cheryl Bost
TABCO President

Perhaps “Sylvester McMonkey McBean” from Dr. Seuss’s story *The Sneetches* will loan us his peculiar contraption and we can repurpose it and name it “The Collaborator:” a machine envisioned to take all of the data collection tools, reporting tools, grading programs and requirements, and turn them into one streamlined, easy to complete tool. This goal doesn't have to be fictional; it can be reality when Dr. Hairston and I, along with the PTA, collaborate on this topic.

At a recent lunch meeting, I talked to Dr. Hairston about this very topic and the need for us to collaborate. We need to work with information tech folks, curriculum folks, and teacher practitioners to bring about a tool that folds all reporting and data tools into one concise instrument that will reduce teacher workload and at the same time effectively and clearly convey student progress to parents and students.

The main focus of teachers should be teaching curriculum through effective and engaging lessons for the students they instruct in order to increase their knowledge and skills. This involves assessing student learning, designing lesson plans for a diverse student body with ever-changing needs and skills, adjusting the delivery of content to meet the needs of students, utilizing new resources and techniques to deliver instruction, and providing feedback to both students and parents on each student's progress throughout the year, while at the same time building relationships with students, parents, colleagues, administrators, and meeting continuing education requirements to

remain highly qualified. Whew! This is all done in a planning period that for most is a maximum of 50 minutes a day. Don't forget the emails that need to be read and responded to, going to the bathroom, maybe collaborating with colleagues, and duplicating or gathering items for the day's lessons.

Although these seemingly super-human practitioners are not afraid of being held accountable, are not afraid of meeting with parents, and are not afraid to stand behind their instruction, they are currently faced with a multitude of reporting and data collection requirements that take a large amount of time and thought for completion. The time required for this part of the job has overtaken the other key components of the teacher's role.

Currently there are five main system-wide data demands placed on educators, with another one on the way.

Short cycles/unit tests Known by either of these names, they are synonymous. They are assessments designed to test and reflect student knowledge following units of instruction. The name “short cycle” is given to those that have been chosen by BCPS to be run through assessTrax within certain timeframes and system-wide data is collected. Although the system requirement for all schools to complete the short cycles has

See "Collaboration," page 2

