



Now More Than Ever!

MEA REPORTER

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It's a Wrap and the Attacks on Public Schools Continue

The 2018 Legislative session has concluded and once again the Legislature has underfunded our Public Schools, given extra funding to Charter Schools and increased the funding for corporate voucher programs.

As with the 2017 session they passed an extensive education bill known as HB 7055 which encompassed over 200 pages of Legislation of unrelated statutes. This happened after they promised they would "never" do that again.

Included in HB 7055 was language which singled out instructional bargaining units for decertification if they could not show a membership of 50% or above within 30 days of the date they were required to recertify with the Public Employee Relations Commission. Should a bargaining agent be decertified, all contracts between the bargaining agent and the School Board would no longer be valid.

At this time the Manatee Education Association does not have a membership of over 50% of the teachers and paraprofessionals working in the Manatee County schools. Since October MEA Building Reps and members have been working to educate not-yet-members about the threat decertification poses to salaries, benefits and working conditions of all teachers and paraprofessionals.

Now more than ever we must stand together in support of our colleagues, our students and public education. Please invite your colleagues to join MEA. Strength in numbers!

Important Dates

April 19, 2018- last date for non-renewal of teachers

April 20, 2018 – Nationwide Day of Action against Gun Violence in schools. Please **wear orange** and talk about what we really need in our schools using #ArmMeWith posters. Share your pictures, tweets and social media posts with us!

April 30 – May 4, 2018 – MEA Elections. Please check your email for details.

May 10, 2018 – # MEA2000 MEA Membership Appreciation! Come be celebrated at Caddy's on the Pointe 3:30-6:30pm

May 15, 2018 - last date for non-renewal of paraprofessionals

May 17, 2018 - last day for notification to teachers of assignment for next year

Internal Job Expos

The 2nd annual internal job expos will be held on Tuesday, May 8th and May 22nd at 5 p.m. at MTC.

The Internal Job Expos are an opportunity for internal candidates to apply and be interviewed for transfers for vacancies which exist at the time the Expos take place.

Contract Implementation Continues

April 25th paycheck-Longevity and media specialists' supplements paid. The full supplement will be paid in the April 25th check; however, in the future these supplements will be divided among the 24 pay checks.

***Be sure to check for Summer savings & benefits on our MEA website or Facebook page!**