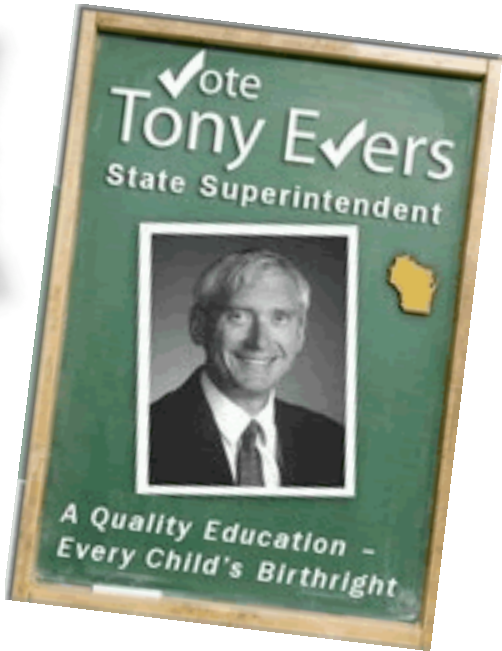


The Word

FEBRUARY
2009



From The President

Jeff Sikich

As many of you know, today we are joining with eight groups representing parents, teachers and educational professionals, school boards, business leaders and others to officially launch the School Finance Network and share our comprehensive plan to change the way Wisconsin public schools are funded. The multi-level effort is being detailed over two days at news events at schools in Green Bay, West Allis, Verona, Wausau, Altoona, La Crosse, Rhinelander, Superior, Racine, and Janesville.

The SFN plan boldly takes on school funding concerns, addressing current funding system flaws and ensuring that all districts benefit. The plan also provides categorical aid for traditionally high-cost students – those with special needs, disabilities or from low-income households – and for rural school districts. Changing the way schools are funded will create an effective system by aligning revenue with actual student costs and helping public schools restore important course offerings that were cut due to budgets shortfalls.

You don't need to be an expert on the current funding formula to make a strong point for why change is needed. Really, it's quite simple and can be boiled down to three main points:

1. Wisconsin must invest in opportunities for all students. The SFN plan recognizes that kids are different and the one-size-fits-all funding model doesn't work. The SFN plan also recognizes

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that new investments are needed to secure a well-rounded education that includes course offerings such as art, music, foreign language, business and vocational programs, as well as programs that improve academic achievement. The plan also recognizes the importance of small schools in rural communities.

2. This plan is accountable to taxpayers and outlines a better way to fund schools, targeting money where it's needed most. It allows schools to keep pace with real word costs, such as utilities and transportation.
3. Now is the time to renew our investments in the public education tradition we have built. We can't sit on the sidelines and wait for a better tomorrow. Our kids are tomorrow and our schools are suffering as more and more is cut each year. We dishonor one of our state's lasting traditions if we don't maintain our parents' and grandparents' investments in great schools. Now is the best time to invest in our future.

Why bring forward a school funding solution now – in the midst of an economic downturn? The answer is simple: Investments in education are proven to benefit the economy. Besides that, this plan is the result of more than two years of thorough research and study by the nine member groups that comprise the School Finance Network. This coalition was formed at the request of Wisconsin legislators who asked that our state's educators use a common voice in the critical school funding conversation.

This is an important moment for public education and it's critical that we all be involved. Our goal is to sustain momentum for school funding reform. Our advocacy starts today and it lasts as long as it takes to ensure our kids are receiving the kind of quality education we know they deserve.

We need everyone's help in building interest and membership in the SFN coalition, so that legislators can hear loud and clear how parents, teachers and education professionals, and others value the educational system in Wisconsin and how changes are needed in the funding system to protect our tradition of quality education for years to come.

How can I help?

The best way you can help is to become involved and encourage others (co-workers, friends, other groups you belong to, business organizations) to do the same.

Please go online today to the SFN Web site at www.sfnwisconsin.org and sign up to support the SFN's efforts. You'll find the support tab to click on the top of the page. The new Web site has in-depth information on the SFN plan, case studies, a video that highlights the issue, and many other features that encourage people to contact their legislators through mail, e-mail or phone, or to write a letter to the editor of a newspaper or testify at a public hearing.

Additionally, a number of social media pages will allow you to follow the activities of the SFN coalition. You can sign up at:

Twitter – <http://twitter.com/sfnwisconsin>

Facebook – www.facebook.com search sfnwisconsin

MySpace – <http://www.myspace.com/schoolfinancenetwork>

We encourage you to take action to help keep this initiative alive. You can do that by forwarding this message to colleagues and friends, and by simply telling everyone you can about the SFN effort and why it is important to change the way public schools are funded.

Working together, we can spread the word about the SFN plan and the positive impact it will have on education. We greatly appreciate your time and efforts. Let's make a difference for the children of Wisconsin!

WEAC Recommends



Tony Evers in February 17 Primary for State Superintendent of Public Instruction

WEAC has recommended Tony Evers for election as the next State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Tony has the experience we need to take on the challenges public education faces in the 21st Century. He has worked as an educator for over 34 years, including the past eight years as Deputy State Superintendent, and 26 years as a teacher, principal and superintendent.

As State Superintendent, Tony Evers will make class sizes smaller for more one-on-one teacher-student interaction; increase accountability and raise graduation rates; and change the way we measure progress to ensure high quality schools for all students. If WEAC members get out and vote in next Tuesday's primary, we can make sure Tony is successful.

Biography Tony Evers

Tony Evers, 57, has been the deputy state school superintendent since 2001 after he lost his bid in the 2001 spring election to become state school superintendent and was hired by the winner and current school superintendent, Elizabeth Burmaster, to be her second in command.

Evers, who lives in Madison, served as administrator of the Cooperative Education Service Agency (CESA) in Oshkosh from 1992 until 2001. He served as superintendent of the Verona School District from 1988 until 1992 and as superintendent of the Oakfield School District from 1984 until 1988. Previously, he was a teacher and principal in the Tomah School District between 1976 and 1984.

Evers received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees between 1973 and 1986 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

On one key issue in the race, Evers believes a 1993 law that created the Qualified Economic Offer should be repealed. The law prevents teachers' unions from going to arbitration during contract negotiations if the school district offers them a 3.8 percent increase in salary and benefits.

[Compare All Five Candidates](#)

[Go to
<http://www.wawmea.org/Superintendent.pdf>](#)

From the Treasurer

Ryan Rutz

Full-time teachers should have paid dues totaling \$674.40 in the calendar year. Double-check your final check (dated 12/23/08) to see what your amount deducted was! If you are not full-time for all of the calendar year, the total on your last check is the amount to claim.



PR&R

Peggy Oberbeck

Graduation 2009

- Being held on Saturday, June 13th, with no input from HS administration or teachers. Teachers who actually work at graduation or participate in the ceremony will be paid at the current curriculum rate.



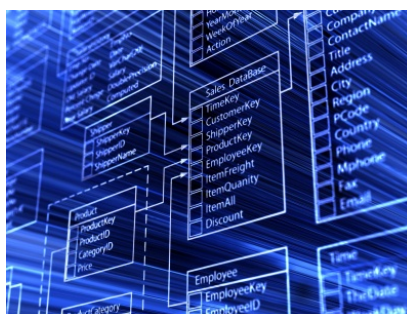
New Teacher Evaluation Process

- Support Seminars have been finalized by Kristen Guertner. See email sent to all teachers for more details. .5 units can be earned for attending.
- Labor Mgt Issue – Questions are being asked regarding the expectations of the district for when goals etc will be required of each teacher; end of year, or start fresh next year? District administration has been asked to provide more information to the staff regarding dates of implementation and provide time during in-service or faculty meetings to explain the new process. It is the obligation of the district to pro-

vide the information to staff during the work day, in-service or faculty meetings.

Schedules for 2009 -2010 school year

- School Board is meeting on Monday, Feb 16th to discuss and possibly make a decision on the start times for next year. The decision will be based on parent surveys and to



serve the students in the district.

- Principals will facilitate further discussions with staff for additional changes that may be taking place with individual school schedules, collaboration and duties.

Full use of Infinite Campus

- Very low level of use by parents and student. Steve Blum will be providing more information about making passwords easier for parents and students to obtain.

Personal Business Day

- Only need to identify "personal business" as reason on form to administration. No further details need to be given.



Non – renewals

- Notices have been given to teachers, and the 1st meetings have been held with the Superintendent.
- Be sure to reply to all observations or evaluation with a short, positive correction or statement of the actual events in your class. Your response will be included in your personnel file. This type of documentation of the actual events could be very important to you in the future.
- Teachers and building reps should contact PR&R or Sandy Nass if there are any discussions regarding job targets, or issues with professional responsibility.

