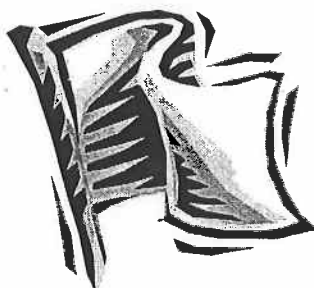


# The Beacon

The Official Publication of the Belmont Education Association

BEA Telephone: 993-5860  
Fall 2010 Edition



Editor: Sue Dixon  
sdixon@belmont.k12.ma.us

## President's Message

About a week ago, I sent out a message on IContact to the membership asking for your help with the election on November 2 (reprinted on page 5 of the BEACON). We have gotten an amazing positive response from the membership on both requests, volunteering to do some phone banking and filling out the MTA white cards. But there are still many of you who have not "stepped up to the plate". When I met with the BEA Executive Board last week, I talked about the need to step out of the "comfort zone" if we want to succeed in protecting our pensions, our medical benefits, and our job security. The threat is real! Please read the political literature that is out there. If Charlie Baker is elected, all of it will be on the table. He has made it clear that he will eliminate 5000 government jobs. That is us he is talking about! As I mentioned on Opening Day, it is no longer possible to sit on the sidelines, those days are long gone. To secure our rights, our benefits, and adequate funding for our schools we must all be involved in the political process; that is the reality of the landscape of funding for education today.

The election is 4 weeks away. There is still much you can do to help. If you are willing to do some phone banking, one night, from approximately 5 to 8pm, we are joining with Cambridge and Somerville teachers at the Cambridge Teachers Association Office (Mass Ave, Cambridge) in making those calls. The evenings are Oct 5, 6, 7, and Oct 12, 13, 14. Phones, scripts, dinner will be provided. We are calling only MTA members. If you are interested please contact me. And bring a friend!

In addition to the Governor's race, of major importance is the defeat of Question 3. Of the four candidates that are running for governor, about the only thing they all agree on is that the Commonwealth cannot sustain a cut of \$2.5 billion at a time when cities and towns are already struggling to provide basic services. We must work to defeat Question 3. All of us must talk to our friends, families, neighbors, and encourage them to help defeat Question 3.

And one last pitch! - I know many of you are sitting back, reading this, saying someone else can take care of this, I hate politics, that's why we have elected our officers. But the reality is we cannot do it alone. If we want to protect our benefits, our jobs, and public education, we must all be involved.

*Bob*

## Get to Know Your BEA

### BEA Officers/Chairpersons

Robert Antonellis	President
John Sullivan, Jr.	Vice President
Jonathan Hartunian	Treasurer
Denise LaPolla	Secretary
Ben DeLorio	Grievance Chair
Christina Westfall	Voucher Committee Chair
Susan Gorman	Membership
Sue Dixon	Beacon Editor
Susan Gorman	Election Committee
John Sullivan, Jr.	BEA Website Manager

### BEA Building Representatives

Burbank:	Selina Anderson Jessica Ames
Butler:	Brian Bisceglia-Kane Adrienne Landry Connie Page
Wellington:	Carolyn Bell Laurie Carlson
Winn Brook:	Jean Griot-Cross Nicole Torniero
Chenery:	Elizabeth Getchell (Grade 5) Leon Dyer (Grade 6) Lisa Connell (Vacancies)
High School	Patricia Partridge (Science) Fiona Crimmins (Foreign Language) Jacqueline Lovett (Math) Josh Steit (Social Studies) Andrew Roy (Fine Arts) Andrea Kalember (English) Mike Bruno (Special Ed) Craig Paczkowski (Guidance) (Vacant)
Unit B	Cheryl Shushan (Wellington)
Unit D	Bethany Fitzsimmons (Winn Brook)

## Professional Status

Below is a list of all teachers who achieved Professional Teacher Status in the spring of 2010. They will be honored at a reception on October 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, prior to the School Committee meeting.

Sarkis Asadoorian, Wellness, High School  
Brian Bisceglia-Kane, Grade 3, Butler  
Rebecca Bourke, Grade 6 Eng/SS, Chenery  
Carolyn Brownsberger, Biology, High School  
Kathleen Byrnes, Art, Chenery  
Bryan Corrigan, AP Economics, High School  
Melissa Crough, Grade 4, Winn Brook  
Cindy Crowley, Resource, Butler  
Leon Dyer, Technology, Chenery  
Stacy Farrell, Health, Chenery  
Janet Flaherty, Grade 3, Burbank  
Erin Fortunato, Foreign Language, Chenery  
Lauren Hannon, Grade 1, Butler  
Kelley Hurley, Preschool, Winn Brook  
Elizabeth Kornbluth, Speech & Language, Chenery  
Sean Landers, Choral Director, High School  
Melissa Latham, English, High School

Mark Lefebvre, Physics, High School  
Erin McCarthy, Special Education, High School  
Katherine Metter, Social Studies, Chenery  
Heidi Naumes, Math, High School  
Kellye O'Brien, Grade 2, Wellington  
Erin O'Bryan, Grade 6 Language Arts/SS, Chenery  
Suzanne Pomponio, Grade 3, Winn Brook  
Margot Reavey, Orchestra Director, High School  
Anne Scally, Speech & Language, Wellington  
Rebecca Tannenbaum, Behavior Support, Wellington  
Laura Tracey, Grade 6 Language Arts/SS, Chenery  
Christina Virgilio, Math, High School  
Ann Walsh, Kindergarten, Wellington  
Anne Marie Wayne, English, High School  
Cheryl Wilson, Science, High School  
Xin Yu, Foreign Language, High School

### ICONTACT

We still need all staff to sign onto IContact. If you have not yet signed up, the instructions are below.

1. Go to the BEA website: [belmont.massteacher.org](http://belmont.massteacher.org)
2. From the scrolling banner at the top of the page, click on "IContact Staff E-mail"
3. Type in your name as printed on your MTA membership card (no middle initial) and your MTA-ID number printed (contact Sue Gorman or Bob Antonellis if you do not have your MTA ID number) next to your name on the card.
4. Hit "Log-in"
5. Fill in all the requested information.
6. Hit "Submit"

**This year is a negotiating year for a new contract for the teachers (Unit A). Communication between the membership and the Negotiating Team will be only via IContact. The survey that generates the BEA's proposal to the School Committee will be done through IContact only. In order to participate in the survey, you MUST be registered with IContact.**

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Antonellis or John Sullivan.

### Call for Vouchers

- If anyone has a college or university voucher they are not using, please forward it to a member of the Voucher Committee so that it can be distributed to a staff member. Your Voucher Committee members are:

- Christina Westfall (chair), Wellington
- Julia King, High School
- Lisa O'Sullivan, Burbank
- Bob McCorkle, Winn Brook
- Nicole Nitchie, Chenery
- Kristin Romig, Butler

### Make Note!

- Teachers submitting any paper work for tuition reimbursement and/or movement on the salary schedule must submit it to Mary Pederson, Human Resource Manager.

- You can get the Tuition Reimbursement Form in the main office of your school and online.

- **All BEA members should have received the MTA 2010-2011 pocket calendar and the MTA Benefits & Discount directory plus your 2010-2011 membership card. If you did not, contact Bob Antonellis.**

## Important phone numbers:

### Local Numbers:

BEA Office (Bob Antonellis)	(617) 993-5860
Belmont Town Hall	(617) 993-2600
School Payroll (Gina Hayes)	(617) 993-5433
Health Insurance (Carole Pessotti)	(617) 993-2740
cpessotti@belmont-MA.gov	
Belmont Selectman Office	(617) 993-2610

### MTA Numbers:

MTA Benefits	(800) 336-0990
MTRB	(617) 679-6877
MTA Retirement Consultant (Howard Crowley)	(617) 742-7950

### Other Numbers:

Social Security Information	(800) 772-1213
Delta Dental	(617) 886-1000 or (617) 886-1107
Harvard Pilgrim Member Serv	(888) 333-4742

## Dues for 2010-2011

### Units A and B

NEA	\$166.00
MTA	\$453.00
BEA	\$184.00
Total	\$803.00

The total dues for members of Units A or B who work half time or less is \$401.50.

Unit D	Full	Less than 20 hrs
NEA	\$ 96.50	\$53.50
MTA	\$136.00	\$68.00
BEA	\$ 64.00	\$32.00
Total	\$296.50	\$153.50

**The BEA Office is located on the first floor of Belmont High School in the Music Department.**  
**(617)993-5860**

### 403b Tax Sheltered Annuity Information

Effective January 1, 2009, the Belmont Public Schools have been required by the IRS to comply with new regulations regarding 403b plans. It is the district's responsibility to monitor both the plan documents and the contribution levels of school employees. Because of the new requirements, and the amount of work required to comply, the School Department has decided to restrict any new enrollees in a 403b plan to seven (7) vendors. They are:

Great American Life, Fidelity Annuity,  
Metropolitan Life, Capital Annuity,  
MEL L Ives Annuity, Vanguard Annuity,  
Equitable Annuity

Please note: Existing accounts with all other vendors will continue to be honored for current staff as long as an employee is working for the district. An employee will be able to continue making contributions to his/her plan as she/he has done in the past.

Please contact Mary Pederson, Human Resources Manager, if you have any questions about this information.

### The Death and Life of the Great American School System

by Diane Ravitch

The BEA has several copies of this Diane Ravitch book which examines how the hotly debated issues of "choice" and "testing" are undermining education.

Diane Ravitch—former assistant secretary of education and a leader in the drive to create a national curriculum—examines her career in education reform and repudiates positions that she once staunchly advocated. Drawing on over forty years of research and experience, Ravitch critiques today's most popular ideas for restructuring school, including privatization, standardized testing, punitive accountability, and the feckless multiplication of charter schools. She shows conclusively why the business model is not an appropriate way to improve schools. Using examples from major cities like New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, and San Diego, Ravitch makes the case that public education today is in peril.

If you would like to borrow a copy, contact Bob Antonellis.

# BEA COMMITTEES, 2010—2011

## PR&R (Professional Rights and Responsibilities) Committee/ Negotiating Team

Robert Antonellis, President  
John Sullivan, Vice Pres. (Chair)  
Kelly Prevost, High School Rep.  
Cliff Gallant, Elementary Rep.  
Ben DeLorio, Grievance Chair  
Julie Babson, System-wide  
Eliot Small, MTA Rep.  
Denise LaPolla, Elementary Rep.  
Lisa Connell, Chenery Rep.

## Union Health Insurance Coalition (Townwide)

Robert Antonellis  
John Sullivan

## Unit B Negotiating Team

Robert Antonellis  
Jim Davis, Dir. of Athletics  
Bill Pappazisis, Dir. of Fine Arts  
Dan Richards, Asst. Principal HS

## Unit D Negotiating Team

Cheryl Shushan, Wellington  
Bethany Fitzsimmons, Winn Brook  
Eliot Small, MTA Rep.  
Robert Antonellis, BEA President  
John Sullivan, BEA Vice-President

## Insurance Advisory Committee (Townwide)

Robert Antonellis

## Sick Leave Bank Committee

Robert Antonellis, President  
John Sullivan, Vice President  
Elizabeth Getchell, Chenery

## Voucher Committee

Christina Westfall, Wellington  
(chair)  
Julia King, High School  
Lisa O'Sullivan, Burbank  
Bob McCorkle, Winn Brook  
Nicole Nitchie, Chenery  
Kristin Romig, Butler

## Election Committee

Susan Gorman (chair)

## BEACON

Sue Dixon (Editor), High School

## Contribution Levels to Individual Retirement Accounts for Fiscal 2010

- The annual investment level is \$16,500.
- If you are age 50 or older this year, you can contribute \$22,000.
- If you are interested in beginning an annuity or making a change to a current annuity, contact Gina Hayes, Payroll Department.

## BEA Executive Board Meetings 2010-2011

September 22	March 16
October 13	April 27
November 17	May 18
December 15 (tentative)	June 8 (tentative)
January 19	
February 16	

All meetings are held in the High School conference room 144B and will begin at 3:15.

In order to keep our BEA and MTA records up-to-date, please email Sue Gorman at CMS with any name or address changes. Thank you!

**The BEA has a website !!!**  
**[belmont.massteacher.org](http://belmont.massteacher.org)**

To get the latest information on your union officers, contract news, meeting schedules, retirement information and much more.....

You can also view and print copies of each contract.

EVERY MEMBER SHOULD HAVE A COPY OF THEIR UNION CONTRACT. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A COPY, CONTACT BOB ANTONELLIS.



**If interested in participating in a “honk” parade on October 10 to defeat Question 3, contact Danette English in the High School/Chenery Art Department.**

# SWAP SHOP

**FREE:** Sewing/Craft Table with a leaf that folds out for extra-workspace. Many years ago, it used to house an old black Singer machine that could fold down inside. The old Singer is gone, but you can still store supplies inside. Email for pictures if you are interested.  
susan\_dixon@live.com

## Recommended Reading



**Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers. The story of one man's experience after Hurricane Katrina, Abdulrahman Zeitoun, a successful Syrian-born painting contractor, decides to stay in New Orleans and protect his property.

**The Unnamed** by Joshua Ferris. A book about a man who goes walking for no apparent reason. Well written and engrossing.

Do you have something you want to buy or sell?  
Place an ad in the Swap Shop! You can send  
Sue Dixon, Beacon Editor, an email anytime.

## MTA BENEFITS

Information on more than 30 MTAB programs and discounts is available anytime at [www.mtabenefits.com](http://www.mtabenefits.com). For your quick reference, listed below is contact information for some of our major programs.

**Auto-Home-Business-Umbrella-Workers Comp**  
Educators Insurance Agency—[insurance@leia.com](mailto:insurance@leia.com)  
888.908.6822

**Dental Insurance—Met Life Resources**  
Karen Nagle—[knagle@metlife.com](mailto:knagle@metlife.com), 877.705.6390

**Disability—Vista Financial**  
Tom Colbert—[Thomas.colbert@ingfp.com](mailto:Thomas.colbert@ingfp.com)  
888.646.1972 x3020

**Long Term Care Insurance—Vista Financial**  
888.646.1972 x5102

**Mortgage Program—Greenpark Mortgage**  
Paul Gershkowitz—[pgershkowitz@greenparkmortgage.com](mailto:pgershkowitz@greenparkmortgage.com)  
866.475.4663 x125

**MTA Vacation Center—[www.mtavacations.com](http://www.mtavacations.com)**  
TNT Hot Line—800.940.6541  
Go Ahead Tours—888.466.2849

**SBLI Life Insurance**  
877.272.7254

**Tax Sheltered Annuity—Met Life**  
Randy Feid  
508.870.1925 x1724

**Term & Permanent Life Insurance—Vista Financial**  
888.646.1972 x3015

If you are not registered on the MTA Benefits Website, you can register now and receive a **\$5 Borders Gift Card.\***

\*While supplied last

## CURRENT DENTAL INSURANCE RATES

	Yearly	Weekly	Monthly
Individual	\$468.00	\$9.00	\$39.00
Family	\$1,164.00	\$22.38	\$97.00

## CURRENT HEALTH INSURANCE RATES

	Yearly	Monthly
Harvard Pilgrim PPO		
Individual	\$5,689.47	\$474.12
Family	\$15,475.32	\$1,289.61
Harvard Pilgrim HMO		
Individual	\$1,425.11	\$118.76
Family	\$3,861.09	\$321.76

## MTA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The MTA is offering many Professional Development courses to help you improve your teaching.

There are face-to-face workshops and online courses, as well as combination hybrid classes. Some classes offer PDP credits, while others may be taken for graduate or undergraduate credit. Course offerings vary, ranging from "New Teacher Webinars" to "Mentoring" to "Standards-based Instruction" to "Differentiation Practices".

Registration for Semester 1 ends on November 2 and registration for Semester 2 ends on February 15. Catalogs are available in your school's teachers lounge or by contacting your school union representative. Information is available online at [www.massteacher.org/cepp](http://www.massteacher.org/cepp).