

The Beacon

The Official Publication of the Belmont Education Association

BEA Telephone: 993-5860
Fall 2009 Edition



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

President's Message

First I want to extend my warmest greeting to each of our new teachers, our support staff, and our administrators. I expect that in the past few weeks you have discovered that our excellent reputation is the result of the spirit of cooperation, camaraderie of our staff, and the legacy of support, interest, and expectations of the Belmont community.

This year Unit A (teachers) and Unit B (administrators) are in the 3rd year of a three year contract. Unit D (professional support staff) are in the 2nd year of a three year agreement. Everyone should have a printed copy of their contract. If you have not received one please contact me and I will send you a copy. You can also access them on the BEA website (belmont.massteacher.org).

I want to encourage everyone to take a few minutes and formalize themselves with the information on pages 3 and 4. It has everything you need to know about the Association. I want to welcome Julie Babson (Chenery), Cliff Gallant (Elementary rep), and Ben DeLorio (Math Dept/HS/Grievance Chair) as new members on the teachers' Negotiating Team. It will be their first experience "sitting" at the table. Please welcome them and feel free to share your "ideas" with them.

Of major importance is that every teacher be signed up with **IContact**. It will be the Association's only means of communicating, keeping you up-to-date, with what is happening in negotiations as we move through the year. If you have not registered you can go to <http://massteacher.org/members/locals/belmont/email.cfm> which will take you to the MTA website where you should enter your username and password from your MTA card. If you have any problems contact John Sullivan or me. In developing the BEA package for negotiations, we will use the input we receive from the teacher survey that will be distributed through IContact some time in October. In order to participate in the survey you needed to be registered.



I believe we will have a unique opportunity on October 27 (Community Workshops) in helping to develop the direction, the goals, for the school system over the next 18 months. So often we as teachers are not involved in the major decisions that are made about curriculum, professional development, class size, etc. I have high hopes that the information/goals/challenges that are generated in the Workshops will empower teachers so that they feel vested in the school system and in the direction it moves. I want to encourage everyone to attend the October 27th afternoon workshop and get involved.

And finally, I want to wish you all a successful year in the classroom. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Professional Status

Below is a list of all teachers who achieved Professional Teacher Status in the spring of 2009. They will be honored at a reception on October 6 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, prior to the School Committee meeting.

Arto Asadoorian, Band Director, District-wide
Faythe Beauchemin, Grade 4, Butler
Kaitlin F. Brandt, English, High School
Gregory E. Bruce, Special Ed, High School
Kathryn S. Doyle, Kindergarten, Winn Brook
Molly A. DuBois, Art, Chenery
Karen Duff, Librarian, Chenery
Christina F. John, Science, High School
Chi-Shiang C. Ling, Chinese, Chenery
Kathryn M. McCabe, Social Studies, High School
Sarah E. McSweeney, Grade 3, Burbank
Stephanie L. Messing, Grade 2, Butler

Cecile F. Moskowitz, Special Ed, Chenery
Hester J. Murray, Language Arts, Winn Brook
Adam C. Niles, English, Chenery
Amy M. Patterson, Kindergarten, Wellington
Amanda G. Rei, Guidance Counselor, High School
Rebecca M. Reilly, Grade 2, Wellington
Mark H. Reynolds, English, High School
Kristen A. Ripley, Art, Chenery
Lauren J. Rozenvayn, K-4 Inclusion, Winn Brook
Tracie L. Santiago, English, High School
Amanda C. Snow, Social Studies, High School
Kelly G. Winn, Kindergarten, Winn Brook

ICONTACT

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

The BEA has purchased ICONTACT so that we will be able to contact our members through home e-mail, therefore not being restricted to using only the school e-mail. This is important, from an organization point of view because there are times when the information that needs to be communicated is confidential and there are other times when the information the Association needs to be distributed would be inappropriate to communicate over school e-mail.

Here are the instructions you need to follow to enter the information. It will only take a few minutes of your time. Thanks. If you have any problems, please contact Bob Antonellis (or John Sullivan in Special Education).

1. Go to the BEA website: belmont.massteacher.org
2. From the menu, click on "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:

- Jean Manes (chair), High School
- Christina Westfall, Wellington
- Lisa O'Sullivan, Burbank
- Marshall Levy, Winn Brook
- Nicole Nitchie, Chenery
- Kristin Romig, Butler

The following vouchers were recently awarded:

- Nicole Torniero (Boston College)
- Justin Chiu (Lesley)
- Jennifer Matthews (Lesley)

A Threat to Our Communities

Once again there is a group of individuals out there asking voters to sign a petition to reduce the sales tax which would cut state revenues by approximately \$2.5 billion. As in the past this would result in cuts in our communities to education, health care, public safety and other programs that we all depend on. If you see any of these individuals and asked to sign the petition, **PLEASE DO NOT SIGN IT!**

Make Note!

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

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

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
Jean Manes	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:	Jennifer Filippi Brian Bisceglia-Kane
Wellington:	Carolyn Bell Paula Lazar
Winn Brook:	Jean Griot-Cross Nicole Torniero
Chenery:	Elizabeth Haesy (Grade 5) Leon Dyer (Grade 6) Lisa Connell (Grade 7) (Vacancies)
High School	Patricia Partridge (Science) Adrienne Talamas (Foreign Language) Jacqueline Gange (Math) Kelly Prevost (Social Studies) Andrew Roy (Fine Arts) Kaitlin Brandt (English) Mike Bruno (Special Ed & Guidance)
Unit B	(Vacant)
Unit D	Cheryl Shushan (Wellington) Bethany Fitzsimmons (Winn Brook)

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

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.k12.ma.us	
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 2009-2010

Units A and B

NEA	\$162.00
MTA	\$444.00
BEA	\$173.00
Total	\$779.00

The total dues for members of Units A or B who work half time or less is \$394.50.

Unit D	Full	Less than 20 hrs
NEA	\$ 93.50	\$52.00
MTA	\$134.00	\$67.00
BEA	\$ 55.00	\$27.50
Total	\$282.50	\$146.50

BEA COMMITTEES, 2009—2010

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, Chenery Rep.
Eliot Small, MTA Rep.
Denise LaPolla, Elementary 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

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)

John Sullivan
Robert Antonellis

Sick Leave Bank Committee

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

Voucher Committee

Jean Manes (chair), High School
Christina Westfall, Wellington
Lisa O'Sullivan, Burbank
Marshall Levy, Winn Brook
Nicole Nitchie, Chenery
Kristin Romig, Butler

Election Committee

Susan Gorman (chair)

BEACON

Sue Dixon (Editor), High School

Increased Contribution Levels to Individual Retirement Accounts for Fiscal 2009

- 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 2009-2010

September 22	March 16
October 20	April 27
November 17	May 25
December - No Meeting	June - No meeting
January 19	
February 23	

- All meetings are held in the High School Mezzanine 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

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.



Belmont Municipal Federal Credit Union

The Board of Directors of the Belmont Municipal Federal Credit Union would like to cordially invite the Teachers of the Belmont School system to join the Credit Union effective immediately.

The Belmont Municipal Federal Credit Union was first organized on November 27, 1940. They are a not-for-profit organization wholly owned by members like you, not shareholders or investors. They are a federally chartered Credit Union overseen by the National Credit Union Association (NCUA.gov), which is the equivalent of the FDIC in the banking industry. NCUA has also rated the financial condition as "Well Capitalized", which is to say the Credit Union is a very safe and sound place to deposit your money. NCUA also insures your account balance in full to a maximum of \$250,000 per member.

With today's troubled banking industry, Teachers are encouraged to take full advantage of their local Credit union and its wide range of products and services. Please stop by the Credit Union office located in the Town Hall Building (take elevator to 2R) or call (617)993-2790 for more details on how to apply for membership, you'll be glad you did.

Membership eligibility:

- All Town Employees
- Working 25+ hours per week with benefits
- Contributes to Belmont Contributory Retirement System or Teachers Retirement System
- \$5 Minimum balance in Credit Union account to maintain membership.
- \$1 one time fee to set up account

Credit Union Hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30am-1:00pm
(617)993-2790

MTA Summer Conference - Lisa Connell

This summer, I attended the Emerging Leaders' Program at the MTA Summer Conference at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. This was a five-day intensive workshop whose focus was to bring together present and potential leaders from local school unions in order to educate them on issues central to the success of the MTA and to encourage their further involvement within their local organizations. I was hugely impressed with many of the workshops I attended; presenters were well-informed and passionate about their work with the MTA. I also had the opportunity to speak with many teachers from neighboring school districts and learn about the challenges and success stories of their locals. I would encourage BEA members to consider attending the conference next summer to learn more about how locals work and to make connections with other MTA members.

Highlights of NEA RA 2009 in San Diego: June 30th - July 6th - Susan Gorman and Denise LaPolla

At the NEA -RA, the importance of making sure people fill out the Census Survey to make sure that districts get adequate educational funding was emphasized. There are a number of lesson plans for students on the census. Visit <http://www.census.gov/> for plenty of resources.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan called for reform to teacher compensation and evaluation systems during a special town hall meeting in the Representative Assembly hall, saying we should not let seniority and tenure rules put adults ahead of children, and that teacher performance should be measured—in part—by student scores. This was not well-received news for the attending teachers. He made a prepared speech then had a question and answer forum with the teachers.

The following authors had workshops at the RA:

- Alan Blankstein, Founder and President of The Hope Foundation and Author of *Failure is Not an Option*,
- Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* had a book signing, and
- Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and others discussed - *Crossroads of Change - Minority Communities on the Brink*.

All books are highly recommended.

On National Teacher Day, thousands of communities will take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives a quality education. This year's event takes place on May 4, 2010. Members of the California Teacher's Association, led by President David Sanchez, marched to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's San Diego office on the last day of the RA to deliver more than 10,000 postcards asking him to stop cutting public education.

Next year the NEA-RA will take place in New Orleans. Three BEA members are able to attend.

SWAP SHOP

WANTED: Looking for Toddler toys and books in good condition for a 1-year old baby girl. If you can help, please email Joan at JMHanley@belmont.k12.ma.us

FOR SALE: Two 15 gallon glass fish tanks one equipped with fish paraphernalia the other with rodent equipment. \$10.00 EACH. Also, new plastic style hamster cage \$10.00. Collection of children's sport equipment :hockey skates, skis , ski boots, snow board and boots, inline skates all approx size 3-4. your pick \$10.00 each. Call and I will check the actual size for the item you are interested in. Call Danette English 617-718-1821 or denglish@belmont.k12.ma.us

FREE: Two sofas, free to a good home/dorm... 2 matching love seats - can be separated if you only want 1. Perfect dorm or first apartment furniture Contact Elizabeth Haheesy at Chenery. ehaheesy@belmont.k12.ma.us

FOR SALE: Beautiful domestic, wool oriental rug. Floral pattern with royal blue background. Measures 8 1/2' x 11'. Ten years old. Perfect condition. Paid \$1500 Sell for \$850. Pictures available. Contact Marshall Levy at 617 6963266 or mlevy@belmont.ma.k12.us

FOR SALE: Vintage crystal chandelier, 21" diameter at base, six candles. \$50 Email hcaragulian@yahoo.com or call (781)891-8794.

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.

FOR RENT: Condo in North Conway, NH. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 1 king, 1 queen and 2 twin beds. Easy walk to North Conway Village and outlet shopping! Fire placed living room. Fully equipped kitchen. Great for Leaf Peeping and very close to 3 ski mountains Story Land and Santa's Village. Contact Colleen Cox. ccox@belmont.k12.ma.us

WANTED: Twin size captain's or mate's bed with storage underneath. Also interested in a twin size bedroom set. Contact: Sybil Fetter sfetter@belmont.k12.ma.us

AVON: Let Avon help you save money. Avon provides: makeup, skin care, fashion, lifestyle, kids products, bath and body products, fundraising opportunities. Call for the latest brochure: Call Sharon at (617)335-1074. The next campaign starts 9/28.

CLASSES: Sharon White Tap Dance & Movement Enterprises.

Advanced Adult Tap—10 weeks @ \$130.00, Monday, Sept 21 to November 19 from 7-8 pm. Dance Place, 182 Broadway. Call Sharon (617)335-1074

Beginner Adult Tap—10 weeks @ \$130.00, Tuesday, September 22-November 20 from 7-8 pm. Dance Place, 182 Broadway. Call Sharon (617)335-1074

Children's Tap (8-13)—8 weeks, starts Wednesday, October 7 from 6-7 pm. YMCA, 101 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA. Call (617)625-5050.

Adult Tap (16+)—8 weeks, starts Wednesday, October 7 from 7-8 pm. YMCA, 101 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA. Call (617)625-5050.

FOR SALE: 32" Sony TV. Good condition. \$75.00. Call Lena at (617)470-8000.

FOR SALE: Coffee table, brass, stainless steel, and glass, 36" round, \$40 Email hcaragulian@yahoo.com or call (781)891-8794.

Recommended Reading

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett.
(from Publisher's Weekly)

Set in 12th-century England, the narrative concerns the building of a cathedral in the fictional town of Kingsbridge. The ambitions of three men merge, conflict and collide through 40 years of social and political upheaval as internal church politics affect the progress of the cathedral and the fortunes of the protagonists.

Cane River by Lalita Tademy. A riveting family saga that chronicles four generations of women born into slavery along the Cane River in Louisiana.

The Soloist by Steve Lopez—Lopez, a columnist for the *L.A. Times*, discovers a homeless man playing a battered two-string violin. As he gets to know the violinist, he discovers that the man was once a promising musician at Julliard. This story details the unlikely bond that develops between the men.

The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan. A fascinating book about four different meals and where they came from. Pollan journeys around the country to investigate where his food comes from and in the process uncovers where food actually comes from. It will make you think twice about what you eat.