

Federation Voice

MONROE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
& SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

LFT, AFT, AFL-CIO

JULY 2009

Vantage Health Care Returns

Vantage Health Care Insurance returns to Monroe City School System. As an employee you have another health care provider that you can opt to join for health insurance. The window for employees to sign up for Vantage is from July 8th till July 31st. Call Fred Atkin at 325-0601 Extension 3017.

Building Representative Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2009

10 am to 1 pm At The Office

Please RSVP By Calling 322-2442
Please Mark Your Calendars



Extended School Time Over For MCSS

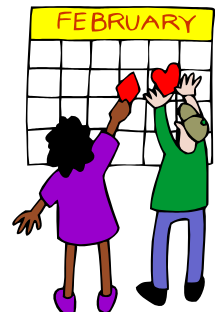
Last year the school board extended the school day by 12 minutes to make up for the days lost by hurricane Gustav. The school board voted to allow the school day to start without the twelve minutes built in this year. If your school started earlier or ended later because of these 12 minutes, the schedule should be adjusted when you return to school this year. Please let us know if your school is still on last year's schedule.

Back-To-School General Meeting

Usually on the first day back to school, the system meets with all employees at Carroll High School. It starts with a general meeting that all attend as a group, and then breaks down into small groups throughout the day on the campus. This year we have been told that there will be **No General Meeting** on August 12, 2009. We have spoken to some board members about this and they are saying there will be a general meeting. At this writing we are not sure what will take place on August 12th. **Maybe, Maybe Not!**

Mark Your Calendars

The Federation's General Membership Meeting
At Saul Adler Recreational Center
August 27, 2009
4 – 6 pm



School Board Updates

- Principals gather at the school board for their bargained contracts. **WHY CAN'T WE!**
- No principal at Carroll High School
- Revised School Calendar for 2009-2010
- July School Board Meetings: July 14, 2009 and July 28, 2009
- Bus Attendants Meeting July 28th at the Media Center – 8:30 am
- Bus Drivers Meeting August 10th at Carver Elementary – 9 am
- New Teacher Meeting August 11th at J. S. Clark – 8 am

Collective Bargaining

On June 30, 2009 all the principals gathered at the school board meeting as a united group because they wanted their **BARGAINED CONTRACTS. WHY CAN'T WE!**

The principals know that the key to getting something is to stand together as one, than to act alone. This is a simple tactic that has worked for years for teachers and school employees all over the country who have bargained contracts.



WE CAN GET BARGAINED CONTRACTS when teachers and school employees decide to stand together as one entity with the **FEDERATION**. The Federation has always pushed to have bargaining for the teachers and school employees, but it requires those who the Federation represents to stand united. Many of us often find reasons not to go to an important school board meeting, or a Federation meeting, because they are scared or their presence won't matter. If we maintain that position, then we will never achieve bargaining in Monroe. We must **UNITE, STAND TOGETHER, AND DEMAND, WHY CAN'T WE**, before getting a true **BARGAINED CONTRACT!**

2009 Legislative Session

The legislative session kicked off this year with governor's proposal of cutting \$200 million in K-12 and \$219 million to higher education. The governor was very clear about how he wanted to handle the 2009-2010 budget, **"Doing More With Less"**.

"Doing More With Less" simply means cutting programs, jobs, and services for our children in public education. Yet while these cuts were severely debated in the legislature, legislation was being proposed to give more **money to charter schools and private and parochial schools**.

The following is an overview of the out come of this legislative session:

- **The MFP, which funds K-12 education, was at a "stand still" level. It did not include the yearly 2.75% increase in the base per pupil expenditure (64 million dollars)**
- **Legislators found creative ways to restore some of the funding for higher education, but it was still cut by \$109 million**
- **The \$1000 supplement for support workers was cut from the budget**
- **No appropriations for retiree's health insurance for hurricane-impacted districts**
- **\$7 million appropriated for national board certification supplements other than teacher and councilors**
- **House Bill 851 was defeated which would have taken due process away for grievances at the board level and allow your personnel records to be open for the public**
- **Strengthened the language to remove disruptive students from your classroom**
- **Suspension of the DROP program was defeated**



Ask A Friend to Join Federation NOW, With NO Dues until September and Enjoy these Benefits for Free.



Payroll Deduction Authorization

I hereby authorize the Monroe City School Board to deduct in equal installments, from each of my paychecks, current dues for the local chapter of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers. I understand that dues are set by the constitution and by-laws of the Monroe Federation of Teachers/School Employees (Local 4326).

This authorization shall remain in effect until revoked by me through proper written notice to the Monroe School Board Human Resources and the MFT/SE Local 4326. Dues: Teachers \$36.70 School Employees \$17.00

Name _____ School or Worksite _____

Address _____ Position: Teacher or School
Employee (Circle One and List Title) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Signature _____

Home Phone (318) _____ E-Mail _____ Social Security # _____ Date _____

Monroe Federation of Teachers & School Employees
Sandie Lollie, MFT/SE President
2809 Evangeline St., Suites 1 & 2 Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 322-2442 FAX (318) 322-6310 monroefederation@bellsouth.net