

15-B INSIDER

<http://www.mea15b.org>

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February



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



2007

PRIVATIZATION

Privatization is rearing its ugly head in our 15-B Council as well as all around the State. It is a virus spreading like a pandemic, and must be eradicated. The antibody for this virus is a two-pronged approach - Knowledge and Action. The knowledge is provided by MEA, and Action taken by the members in conjunction with their Uniserv Director.

Here are four major steps that must be taken to ensure victory:

1. Coalition Building
 - (a) With every MEA Local and non-affiliated employees in your District and your Coordinating Council.
 - (b) With your School Board [remember you only need four votes to stop a privatization attack in your District].
 - (c) With the parents and other influential members of your community.
2. Hire your bosses - Elect your own School Board
3. Market Yourself - Tell the parents and the Board who you are in whole and in part.
4. Anti-Privatization Action Plan - The rest of the Story

MEA will train you and we will help you, but “YOU” are the **key**. You are what makes it happen. So, what is it going to be? Make a living wage with benefits, or make \$7.00 per hour and all you can beg, borrow or steal?

(Written by Walter Ochs)

If you want to learn more about coalition building and privatization issues, make plans now to attend the 2007 ESP Statewide Conference in Battle Creek on March 16th & 17th. Session 109 on the 16th is “Coalition Building”; and on the 17th Session 401 is “Beat Privatization”. The deadline for registration is March 9th. However, registration is limited to first come, first served, so get yours in as soon as possible. Forms are available from the 15-B office. The Coordinating Council will pay for two members per association to attend.

BARGAINING UPDATE

Bargaining: Pine River ESP, Wexford ISD ESP



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 22	Retirement Workshop – Wex-Missaukee ISD/Lake Superior Room 6:00 p.m.
Feb 26	MESSA Tune-Up – 5:30 p.m.
Feb 27	Cyndi out of office – Planning Meeting
Feb 28	Privatization Meeting – Pine River 6:00 p.m.
Mar 5	Region 15 meeting here – 7:00 p.m.
Mar 13 & 14	Cyndi out of office – Statewide Staff
Mar 15	Cyndi out of office – Legal Update
Mar 16	Cyndi out of office – ESP Conference
Mar 19	Coordinating Council Meeting – 7:07 p.m.





15-B SCHOLARSHIPS



Don't forget the scholarship deadline is March 9th! Encourage your children to take advantage of this opportunity. Applications are available from your school counselors and/or the MEA office. Four \$300 scholarships will be awarded at our annual OPIE banquet where the parents and the students will be our guests.

BATTLE IS WON – BUT THE WAR IS ONGOING

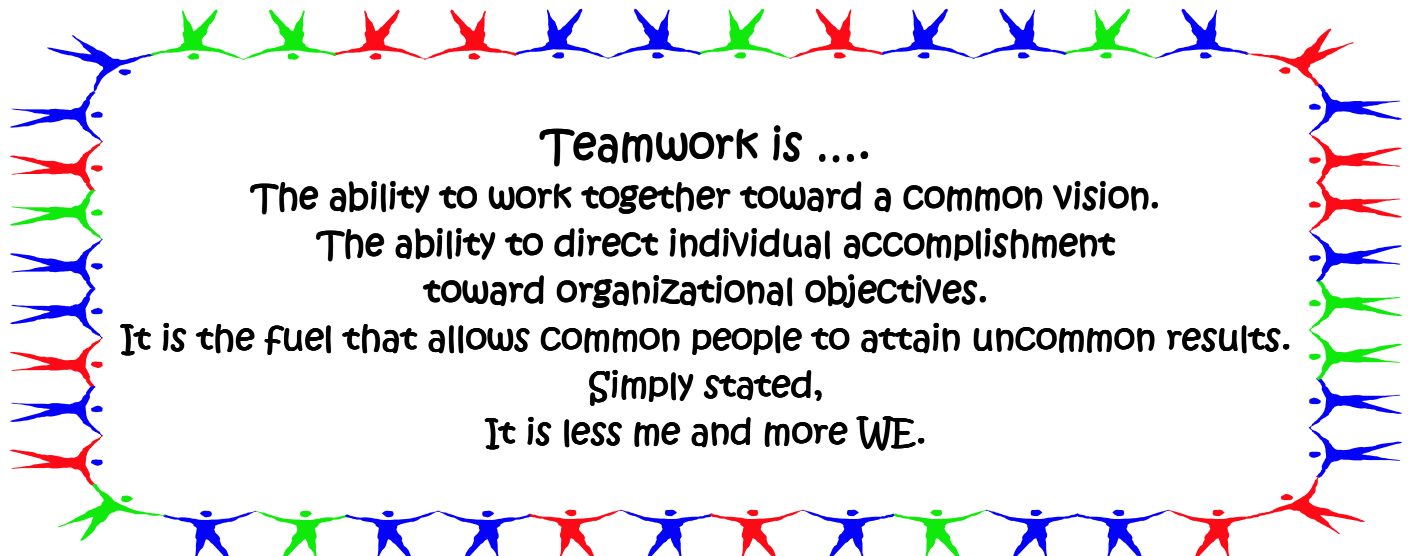


The threat of privatization has come to 15-B. The Manton Consolidated Schools Superintendent, Lon Schneider, originally supported full privatization of the Food Services department in the school. But through the efforts of the Manton educational support personnel leadership, the Manton ESP privatization steering committee, and the Food Services staff, that proposal did not make it onto the board's agenda Monday night.

On Monday, February 6th, over 125 people attended the Manton School Board meeting in support of the Manton Food Services employees. The large group in attendance included teachers, support personnel and community members. Manton ESP President, Dawn Shively, gave a passionate speech on behalf of her membership. Shively stated that "While Chartwell may get the opportunity to grow their business in Manton, this option could cause our employees to lose their jobs, their health insurance, and, perhaps, their homes." She further stated: "Every member of our Manton Schools support staff lives in Manton. We have raised our families here. We have built our homes here. We support our community, and are dedicated to our jobs here at Manton Schools".

The Manton Food Services employees had earlier made a presentation to three school board members on January 31st proposing to self-manage their department. In her statement to the school board, Food Service employee, Judeen Huston, said: "As a part of the kitchen staff, we are willing to help finances by self-management. We are asking for the chance to change." Self-management has been very successful in many districts including Pine River. However, at the board meeting the school board voted against allowing self-management.

It took over two hours for the board to hear all the public comments and discussion regarding the proposal from Chartwell. Representatives from Chartwell were not on hand to answer any questions from the public or staff. Although it was abundantly clear that no one in attendance supported hiring Chartwell, the board voted 5 to 2 to hire them to manage Manton's Food Services. The coalition of staff and community did a great job limiting the privatization to management only, and will keep fighting privatization in their community.



Teamwork is

The ability to work together toward a common vision.

**The ability to direct individual accomplishment
toward organizational objectives.**

It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

Simply stated,

It is less me and more WE.