

Hello SVVEA Members,

Energy Conservation and Safety

You may have recently received, or soon will be, in your school update or weekly newsletter a reference to the District's "Energy and Sustainability Program" document, which contains a section that sounds like a directive. Specifically:

6.2.4 Personal Electrical Consuming Equipment

- Personal refrigerators, coffee pots, and other appliances are not permitted in classroom and staff office areas and shall only be used in shared kitchen spaces [aka staff lounges].
- Personal microwaves are not permitted in classroom areas per the Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool guidelines.
- Personal space heaters are not permitted for use in any school or building unless the unit adheres to Pool guidelines. They pose a serious fire threat to our buildings, are costly to operate, and influence HVAC equipment run times.

While energy conservation and safety are obviously district efforts that SVVEA supports, please do *not* be in a rush to remove personal appliances from your classrooms, team/department offices, or those common spaces other than your staff lounge. After speaking with Superintendent Don Haddad, we agreed that wholesale removal of these appliances is not in the best interest of students, and could in fact reduce the considerable number teachers who use their duty-free lunch to assist students. Just imagine the line of teachers in your school's staff lounge waiting to use *the* microwave if it were the *only* place in the school that this appliance were available, or having to travel across your building during an already-brief 30 minute lunchtime to retrieve your lunch from the only refrigerator in the only "shared kitchen space" in your building. I will be in contact with Brian Lammer, Asst. Supt. of District Operations, and Dara Ward, our district's Energy and Sustainability Manager. Clarification will be soon forthcoming on this issue.

BloomBoard

While this online evaluation management system is back for this year, perhaps to the chagrin of many, it is almost certainly preferable to the state's new RANDA Solutions online evaluation management system. While some principals and teachers did not utilize BloomBoard last year, this is the state's first contract year with RANDA Solutions, and it's essentially in pilot mode. SVVSD has already been there with BloomBoard. Familiarity may breed contempt in some situations, but I am convinced BloomBoard is preferable to RANDA, at least for this year.

Follow Up to SVVEA Member email "Important Info for the New School Year" on 8/21/14:

Compensation for Classroom/Building Moves Apparently some teachers who were reassigned to a different classroom have been told by their administrators that only teachers who have been transferred to a new building qualify for the compensation of 7 hours at \$30/hour (re: the new language of Article 8.14). This has been cleared up – *this compensation applies to any teacher who did not initiate their own classroom move or transfer to a different building.* If you were affected, submit a time card to your principal, who will then forward it to your Area HR Director for coding and final approval.

Clarification on Part-Time Status and Stipend Hours/Other Meeting Times: The expectation is that all teachers, even those who are part-time, will participate to receive the \$1200 Meeting Time stipend (\$600 in each of your November and April paychecks). This time is prorated only for those who take an extended leave. This is different than *other* meeting times for those teachers who are part-time. Plan time, parent-teacher conferences and Late Start/PLC time should be prorated on the basis of the part-time

FTE. If you are part-time you should discuss the prorating expectations with your principal or supervisor.
(Lunch is not included, as it is not contract time.)

The beginning of a school year almost always involves some swirl of chaos. I trust that your time already is, or will very soon be, settling into the routine of teaching.

Thanks as always for your SVVEA membership!
Trip

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