



# THE VOICE

FOR ISD622 EDUCATORS

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,

I hope you all had an opportunity to participate in your schools "Get out to Vote" gathering! If you haven't done so already, make sure you do get out and cast your vote! Only a few days left until election day on November 5th. Make sure your voice is heard. In addition, please see the attached picture of donated clothing we received this past month from all of you. This is by far the largest amount of donated clothes we have ever received. So cool! Thank You! Have a great November everybody!

Together,

Tim Kappes

### Community Service Project

October was our clothing drive. Thanks to those who contributed.



The clothes will be donated to a local shelter.

November is our food drive.

Please give your donations to your building rep by Monday November 11th. The food will go to our McKinney-Vento food shelf. They do not accept money only goods. Thanks!

### Important

#### Phone Numbers

- \*Tim Kappes (President)  
Cell: 701-640-3177
- \*Jody Murphy (Vice President)  
Cell: 651-353-2554
- \*Katie Semmerling (Treasurer)  
Cell: 715-897-2221
- \*Mary Glagavs (Secretary)  
School: 651-748-6876  
Cell: 651-249-6292
- \*Katrina Geske (Membership)  
Cell: 715-456-8920
- \*Jill Mueke (Membership)  
Cell: 612-515-5686
- \*Tim Kappes (Chair)  
Cell: 701-640-3177
- \*Kent Gordon (High School)  
School: 651-702-8685
- \*Janene Lenard (Elementary and Middle)  
Cell: 612-741-8508
- \*Annie Hodges (Special Education)  
Cell: 952-250-6637



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### Executive Board Meeting

You're invited!  
**Monday, Nov 11, 2024**  
4:15 p.m.

Cowern Elementary  
Library

## Why I Keep Teaching

An excerpt from an article by Rachel Jorgensen

The teaching profession has rarely felt more bleak. Systemic problems that teachers face include a lack of support, insufficient compensation, and mounting pressure to deliver what sometimes feels like unrealistic results. The goalpost is always moving. When these are compounded with the broader challenges of society, teachers may sometimes feel overwhelmed. Teaching is challenging, and it isn't getting any easier. Systemic issues aren't going to be resolved quickly or effortlessly. The collective sense of burnout among educators makes perfect sense in light of current circumstances. Why stay? Here are a few reasons:

### **EVERY TIME I SHOW UP FOR WORK, I MIGHT CHANGE A LIFE FOR THE BETTER**

If there's one certainty we can stand on as educators, it's this: Our work matters. We're investing our lives in young people who can benefit tremendously from our guidance. Every small interaction with a student may have gravity for them in terms of their lifelong success. As educators, we've all endured challenges. We have a particular group of students who just don't mesh well together; we struggle to meet the needs of a particular student who is facing struggles; we feel frustrated with a lack of engagement from a certain student or cadre of students. These challenges may be magnified by the fact that we don't feel well compensated or we perceive a lack of support. Here's the truth: No matter how difficult this work may seem, there's a high likelihood that we are transforming lives for the better, often without even realizing it. This philosophy has resulted in countless positive transformations in students, and what could be more rewarding.

**MY WORK HAS INVISIBLE RIPPLE EFFECTS** I have many former students who've reached full adulthood. Crossing paths with them, I often hear things like "Thank you for putting up with me... you helped me so much, and you didn't even know it."

Our work has an impact, whether we see it or not. We may be planting seeds that don't come to fruition until decades later. Showing up for students with love, empathy, kindness, and selflessness makes a tremendous impact, whether or not we know it.

## Contract Corner

### **Save Money When Writing A Will, Trust, Power of Attorney, and Health Care Directive**

Caring for an elderly or sick family member can be a challenge. Managing health care or finances for someone else may be extremely difficult without legal documents such as a health care directive and power of attorney.

It's important for people of working age to set up these documents to prepare for their own future. Writing a health care directive and power of attorney can help provide care if and when one can't manage this on one's own. These documents allow your caregivers to work with banks, insurance, doctors, and others to provide the care that you would expect. Fortunately, the legal insurance provided in Article VIII, Section 10 of your union contract allows you to set up these documents with a lawyer at low cost.

A power of attorney provides another person with legal authority for your matters such as finances, taxes, real estate, and insurance while you are alive and not able to care for yourself. A health care directive allows someone else to make healthcare decisions aligned with your wishes should you not be able to make these decisions on your own.

In addition, legal insurance may also provide a low cost will and trust. Wills and Trusts are for when you have passed away. A will states how you want your assets distributed to others and who will be the guardians of your dependents. A trust can help your heirs avoid probate and see that your assets are handled as you wish.

You may use legal insurance to select from your choice of lawyers in the plan. Get started by going to [isd622.org](http://isd622.org). Login as a staff member, then scroll down to "departmental resources," then "human resources/payroll," then "benefits," then "ARAG Insurance" to find out more.



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