Daviess County Public Schools employees joined other state employees at a rally on Saturday, March 17, on Frederica Street to demonstrate support for funding of the state pension.

DCPS educators also attended rallies in Frankfort earlier this month and will travel to the capitol on Wednesday, March 21, to send a message to legislators about the importance of keeping the pension promise to those who have dedicated their careers to serving children!

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Making Our Voices Heard

By Paul Howard
Social studies teacher
Daviess County High School

It all started with a snow day on Monday, March 12. For some teachers, these are days that are used to play catch up: Catch up on grading papers, catch up on lesson plans, catch up on laundry and dirty dishes. In between cereal and bottles, diaper changes and showers, I had a moment to read some news stories on my phone and saw a story trending from Frankfort. There was a state employee pension reform rally at 5 p.m. that day.

For some reason, I began to remember the teachers that had come before me at Daviess County High School. In my 15 years as an educator, I have known giants of education who gave their all in a profession that is most definitely worth the fight.

The 2.5 hour drive up to Frankfort seemed to fly by. This was a snow day not only for Daviess County, but many of the counties around us, so I saw many children outside enjoying their day off from school. I wondered what they thought about the impending crisis. I doubt most even knew there was a problem.

I arrived in Frankfort a little after 3 p.m. so I had time to wander before the rally started; a familiar face crossed my path. It was my former DCPS Superintendent Tom Shelton. We spoke for several minutes about how things are back in Daviess County and how he had been meeting with people in the capitol building today. Something he told me stuck right to my chest. It wasn’t the words that he used but the urgency in his tone about how necessary it was to be talking reform of a pension system that had made a promise to so many people.

I made my way over to the steps and watched as a few more folks made their way into the area, then the music started. Songs – no, not songs, but hymns of protest and fraternity echoed through the speakers.

I decided to walk into the capitol building to have a look around. I made my way through the front and noticed a very odd scene. In almost every corner, there were men and women huddled together, talking quietly yet with a pervasive sense of apprehension. As I continued through the corridors of our capitol, this scene kept replaying. Maybe we were here at the right time. SB1 had just been

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shot down the Friday before so maybe there was hope of progress.

As I made my way back outside, I started walking around, reading the signs that people had created, snapping pictures and posting them to social media so my colleagues back home could see this. Right below the main steps stood a large blue sign that reflected the thought of the day: “We’ve Had Enough.”

Around 4 p.m., the once small crowd had grown to well over a thousand people; this is when the gathering of professional women and men turned into something else. There were teachers, retired and current; there were state employees; social workers; teamsters; public servants from every branch that this pension crisis had affected.

A notion came over me: We were not individuals standing alone in a crowd, we were citizens of this Commonwealth banding together with one voice.

I noticed a line of people beginning to march around the capitol building, so I tagged along. They were shouting slogans like “A Pension is a Promise” to the women and men inside the walls.

The speakers started addressing the crowds. These people amazed and thrilled the crowd with their words and stories. I kept walking through the throngs of people, finally making my way to the top of the stairs as you enter the capitol building. I turned around and noticed another unusual sight: Men and women watching the proceedings through their office windows. I wondered if these were the very people who last week tried to break their promise to us. They must have heard the chants, the noise, the unison and passion that were coming from the crowd below them. They must have felt the ripple of change that is slowly making its way through their hallowed halls, knowing that now is the time to act.

It was at this moment that I felt an immense wave of pride come over me. This is why I had made the trip. All of those wonderful women and men who had come before me were standing with me witnessing this awesome scene. I listened to a few more speakers, then drove home through the winding roads of Kentucky. I had time to truly process what I had witnessed. It was not a gathering of people shouting at the wind, making useless threats. It was not an ignorant group of misinformed citizens who should just keep their mouths shut and let the lawmakers go to work. It was an inspiring group of women and men that put the wind back in the sails of this educator who still has more than half a career to look forward to. And to think, this experience all started because of a snow day!
What a great day in Frankfort on March 14, with another group representing DCPS/OPS scheduled to visit our state capitol on March 21. I hope these events inspire those who want to be more involved!

Upcoming Events
- Retirement Seminar for KEA members is 5 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at the Owensboro Public Schools Central Office, 450 Griffith Ave. For more information, contact Lisa Shoemaker at Apollo High School, lisa.shoemaker@daviess.kyschools.us
- KEA is April 4-6 — Special thanks to Jana Bryant, Lisa Garner, Jennifer McKelly, Donella Cason and Lisa Shoemaker for giving up part of their Spring Break to do the business of the Association.
- Have you voted for your state NEA Delegates yet? If not, please take time to vote before March 31. Click HERE to vote or for more information. Want to know who is on the ballot from the Second District? They would appreciate your vote: Marina Jenkins, Veronica Russell, Melissa McBride, Angela Richard, Keevie Vincent, Alvia Littleton and Veronica Buckner.
- Click HERE to review pension information on the KEA website.
- DC-KEA will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, March 26, in Room 100 at the DCPS Learning Center.
- DC-KEA Scholarship applications are due at 3:15 p.m. April 13. Click HERE for more information or contact John Brett at DCMS.
- Do you have questions about DC-KEA and member benefits? Want to know how you can get involved? Please contact your building representative or either of us. We are here to serve and support you!

DC-KEA Co-Presidents
Danielle Ellis
DCPS Center for Academic Improvement
danielle.ellis@daviess.kyschools.us
270-852-7226

Gail Edmunds
DCPS Transportation Department
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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following members of the DCPS family as they welcome their new arrivals:

Cindy Hardesty (DCHS) has a new granddaughter! Vivian was born Feb. 23, weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches long upon arrival.

Geoff Snyder (CVMS) and his wife Lydia have welcomed their third son. Ben Alan Snyder arrived March 2, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 21 inches in length. The baby was also welcomed by big brothers Michael and Joseph.

Sincere Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to the following members of the DCPS family during their time of loss:

Susan Velotta (Transportation) on the loss of her husband; and family, friends and former colleagues of Wayne Velotta (Transportation, retired), who passed away on Feb. 12.

Ray Johnson (Transportation) in the loss of his brother, Curtis Johnson, on Feb. 13.

Andrea Head (AES) in the loss of her grandmother, Margaret Louise Rudd, on Feb. 19.

Misty Boarman (DCHS) in the loss of her grandmother, Carol Sue Bivens of Owensboro, on Feb. 21.

Tyla Bailey (DCHS) in the loss of her grandmother, Nevis Alley Jasper Grinder of Russell Springs, on Feb. 23.

Mary Froehlich (CVMS) in the loss of her brother Bernie Mattingly on Feb. 25.

Making the Case

DCPS Superintendent Matt Robbins explains concerns about Senate Bill 1 and its potential impact on members of the Kentucky public employee pension system at a forum hosted by the Kentucky Rough Riders. About 20 people attended the meeting at the DCPS Learning Center on Tuesday, March 20.

Vote for DCPS!

The Daviess County Public Schools district has been nominated in the category of “Best Place to Work” in the Messenger-Inquirer Readers’ Choice Awards. If you love working for a district that puts kids first, vote once a day until 5 p.m. Saturday, March 24, by visiting www.messenger-inquirer.com or click HERE to go directly to that voting page.

The Grapevine is YOUR Newsletter.
Send information about births, deaths, weddings and milestone anniversaries to grapevine@dcps.org
Healthy Lifestyle
Tip of the Week

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF — ON MONDAY OR ANY DAY
Keeping a proper perspective on issues can greatly reduce stress, tension and anxiety. Focus on the big picture to become more centered, calm and positive. Here's how:

- Resist obsessing over small details. Realize their minor importance.
- When irritated by something small, examine why you are so annoyed. Reason with yourself and resolve the issue.
- Recognize that stress is often self-induced and that small setbacks won't ruin your day.
- Reframe your irritation, so you're not the victim. Take charge by making positive steps.

These weekly wellness reminders are brought to you by the DCPS Food Services Department. We care about you! Learn more at www.healthymonday.org

DCMS sold to Owensboro Grain

The Daviess County Public Schools Board of Education approved the sale of the Daviess County Middle School building and campus to Owensboro Grain during their March 13, 2018, meeting.

The property at 1415 E. Fourth St., which had been appraised for $500,000, was sold for $1.5 million. The sale is contingent upon the successful completion and move to a new middle school at another location.

The current DCMS building has been used by the DCPS district for 82 years, with the gymnasium dating to 1935.
Thoughts While Walking Through

By Jimmy Lyddane
Director of Elementary Schools

Some weeks in our schools are more memorable than others and last week will go down as quite memorable! Holy cow, what a week! I do appreciate so much all the obstacles you and your teams face each day to make our schools and the students’ experiences so positive, even among the many challenges that occur to distract us. You simply are the BEST!

I stopped by last weekend for a visit with a close friend of mine; his six-month-old grandson was “hanging” with the guys. We had so much fun! But Mike’s grandson isn’t quite mobile yet. We placed him on the floor for some tummy time, and placed a toy in front of him. He wanted that toy very badly! He knew exactly what his target was, and he worked extremely hard to get there, but his technique was pitiful; so pitiful, in fact, that he scooted backward instead of forward and entertained us over and over with his flawed procedure. I felt kinda bad for giggling at his struggle, but there was a lesson there for me to learn.

I stopped by last weekend for a visit with a close friend of mine; his six-month-old grandson was “hanging” with the guys. We had so much fun! But Mike’s grandson isn’t quite mobile yet. We placed him on the floor for some tummy time, and placed a toy in front of him. He wanted that toy very badly! He knew exactly what his target was, and he worked extremely hard to get there, but his technique was pitiful; so pitiful, in fact, that he scooted backward instead of forward and entertained us over and over with his flawed procedure. I felt kinda bad for giggling at his struggle, but there was a lesson there for me to learn.

Sometimes we have the best of intentions as leaders and classroom teachers as we know exactly what our target standards are, and we work extremely hard to reach them, only to swing and miss. Sometimes the kids we are working with are late bloomers, but more often than not, it is our own approach, our own strategies, and techniques that are inefficient.

This is especially likely if, instead of using resources, we let resources use us. Resources don’t know our kids. We do. And when we get to know our students well through solid assessments and one-on-one conferring, we can use resources strategically to meet their needs. If we blindly rely on a sequential program to get our students from Point A to Point B, we may discover, like Mike’s hardworking grandbaby, that our targets elude us.

As I think about the curriculums many of us have embraced, I recognize the beauty of a systematic approach to building upon student learning. But the curriculum alone is simply not an exact science in meeting each of our students’ individual needs. That’s where the customization comes into play. It’s extremely important that we blend group instruction with small group collaborative work and individual instruction, especially to the needs of individual students. An independent student-driven structure provides students with the necessary practice time to refine their skills and grow in a way that makes their specific targets not just meet-able, but beatable.

Conferring with individual students is a powerful vehicle to identify and focus in on individual student needs, whether those are basic skills needs or strategic needs for building comprehension. My favorite part of conferring is that it’s a very specific time in which the teacher and the student begin the process of working smarter and not necessarily harder!

Thanks for everyone’s flexibility as we concluded the audit process last week. The final audit piece was completed around 5:30 p.m. Friday afternoon as we had our exit interview with the GT folks.

Let’s bring in some sunshine this week so we can all get outside and play!
CVMS Blood Drive

Did you know that one pint of blood can save three lives? Mark your calendar and plan to visit College View Middle School between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

The Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center will donate $5 for each donor to the CVMS Builders Club; proceeds will be used to buy supplies for the Owensboro Humane Society.

Donors will receive a T-shirt and will earn 50 Vitality points. Donors must be age 17 (or 16 with parent/guardian consent) and weigh at least 115 pounds. Donors must check medications with WKRBC staff. Eat a good meal before donating blood, and allow at least 56 days from previous blood donation. Photo identification required.

Above: DCPS educators Kara Westerfield and Krystal Goins explore ways to build students’ multiplication fluency through games at a professional development session sponsored by the Kentucky Center for Mathematics.

Below: Second- and third-grade math teachers complete a card sort on analyzing ways students can represent their thinking for multiplication and division.

Are you or a colleague doing something new, interesting, exciting? Let us know!
Send information and photographs to grapevine@dcps.org
Clean out your closets to make room for your new Christmas items! Deadline to submit items for our next DC-bay! feature is Friday, April 20.

DC-bay! Guidelines

Send information to grapevine@dcps.org
Include your name, school/site, description of item, price, and home/personal phone number. Photographs are welcome and should be submitted as .jpg attachments, not embedded into emails. Size and number of photos used depends on available space and layout.

Note: DC-bay! is for DCPS staff members only.

WANTED TO BUY —
I am in search of a Baby Trend double jogging stroller similar to item pictured at left. Also in search of a swing set. Contact Jamie Glenn (DPES) at 929-2364.

Camper shell, fits 6-foot long, 5-foot wide truck bed. Very good condition. Asking $450. Doug Sandifer (DCHS), 929-4590.

My kiddo has purchased a different car and this will not fit in the new vehicle. 15-inch Kicker Solo Baric. Box is custom-made to fit speaker. Amp is a Rockford Fosgate 500 watt. $250 for both. Donna Adcock (DCMS), 302-4578.

Chantilly Place flower girl dress, size 5; would fit a child in size 4 or 5. Worn once. $50. Jamie Glenn (DPES), 929-2364.

Deadline for next DC-bay! Friday, April 20

Phone Numbers
Area Code 270