



The official newsletter of the Phillipsburg Education Association

# PEA Advocate

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August 28, 2003

## What did you do this summer?

The summer of 2003 may have been a time of more activity in the long history of the Phillipsburg Public School District than any previous summer. Here's a synopsis of the happenings from this summer (and in case you've forgotten, a quick run down of the happenings that occurred during the last two months of school) so that you are up-to-date.

### May

- May 15 - Date for financial aid figures from NJ. comes & goes without any numbers.
- May 15 - 33 teachers laid off and 4 let go for other reasons.

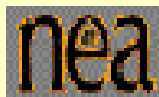
### June

- June 6 - North Warren teachers strike over lack of progress in negotiations. They've been without a contract for almost a year now.
- June 8 - N. Warren strike is over.
- June 18 - 13 P'burg. staff members are brought back leaving 20 still without a job.
- June 19 - Last school day.



This picture of a backhoe inside the high school's quadrangle is representative of all the construction work done throughout the district this summer.

- June 20 - Summer construction starts everywhere in the Phillipsburg School District. See the picture above.  
*Click here to see more pics*
- June 24 - 22 more P'burg. staff members are laid off: 4 secretaries; 7 parent liaisons; 10 security officers & 1 nurse assistant.
- June 24 - NJ Supreme Court backs the original Abbott decision but will hold a hearing on July 10 on the state's request to freeze spending levels again.
- June 30 - Alpha teachers are w/o a contract one year.



WCEA



- June 30 - NJ governor & legislators arguing over budget. Gov't. shutdown looms.

## July

- July 1 - NJ governor & legislators agree on a budget. Gov't. shutdown averted.
- July 1 - P'burg. teachers' contract expires.
- July 1-6 - NEA national meeting in New Orleans.
- July 8 - Contract talks for P'burg teachers go nowhere.
- July 8 & 9 - P'burg. administrators visit Trenton to negotiate financial aid figures.
- July 9 - The Express-Times reports that the Alpha teachers may have a contract.
- July 10 - NJ Supreme Court hears state request for *another* year of no increase in financial aid to the Abbott school districts.

- July 10 - Gov. McGreevey signs *Contract Imposition* bill into law.
- July 16 - Gov. McGreevey signs *Early Retirement* bill into law.
- July 21 - 6 'new' trailers for PHS arrive today
- July 21 - 3 'new' teachers hired for PHS today.
- July 23 - NJ Supreme Court handed down its ruling late today that the state *must* fund all *current* Abbott programs but not *new* ones. This continues the moratorium on funding increases for Abbott districts for the second straight year.
- July 25-27 - Phillipsburg's *Ole Towne Festival* was held this weekend and the PEA was there with its *Kids' Krafts Kanopy* stand.

[Click here to see Ole Towne pics](#)

- July 31 - The NJ Treasury Dept. announces an audit of 23 of the 30 Abbott districts to be completed by August 15. Coincidentally, the same 23 Abbott districts requested extra funding from the state of NJ this year.

## August

- August 1 - North Hunterdon & Voorhees teachers enter third level of mediation after 18 months of negotiations.
- August 7 - Tentative 3 year teachers' contract reached.
- August 11 - 6 more teachers are brought back and new hires are brought on board.

[Click here for 8/25 Bd. happenings](#)

- August 28 - First day for teachers and first look at proposed 3 year contract.

## September

- Sep. 2 - First day of school.

## Editorial Policy of the *PEAdvocate*

The PEAdvocate is the official newsletter of the Phillipsburg Education Association (PEA.)

The PEA is the recognized "... exclusive representative for collective negotiation concerning the terms and conditions of employment for all certificated personnel, under contract..." — Article I of PEA contract

PEA membership also encompasses the Warren County Education Association (WCEA), New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) and the National Education Association (NEA).

*Editor ..... Charles Nowalk, PHS*

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<http://www.pburgea.org>

<http://www.warrencoea.org>

<http://www.njea.org>

<http://www.nea.org>

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