

Subject: Our District Stands Behind Walker

Dear NBEA Members,

Today, your NBEA President and Vice President worked with Joe Garza, the Deputy Superintendent, for four hours negotiating in good faith to settle our contract. We also worked with Joe (and Paul earlier this week) to see if we could have the pension cut pre-tax and insurance costs reduced through plan design changes, rather than imposing a large premium share.

You can imagine the kick in the gut we felt when WEAC contacted us after this to inform us that **our superintendent and school board held a press conference with Walker supporting his stripping of our bargaining rights.** In fact, Scott Walker stated that our superintendent actually *asked* to visit with him and *offered* to speak publicly in order to express that he was “excited about the tools we have here (in the budget and recently passed budget repair bill),” because he “likes what he sees.”

...and what are these “tools” that Walker has “given” our Board:

- *Ability to dissolve our contract
- *Cuts in insurance
- *Instituting merit pay
- *Government-imposed wage controls
- *Eliminating seniority
- *Removing guaranteed prep time
- *Reducing our retirement benefits
- *Changing the age for retirement eligibility
- *Termination without just cause
- *Eliminating grievance procedure
- *Individual salaries determined unilaterally by administration
- *Change in salary schedule
- *Removal of sick bank
- *Changing sick days
- *Changing the evaluation process
- *Etc.

To see the full press conference, check out the following link:

<http://www.wiseeye.org/Programming/VideoArchive/EventDetail.aspx?evhdid=3926>

Our Board and Superintendent have publicly promoted these attacks on our rights, wages, and working conditions.

Join with us in our efforts to restore our rights and preserve our voice! The time for solidarity is now.

Sincerely,

Diane Lazewski (NBEA, President)
Greta Voit (NBEA, Vice President)