

From: Kara Hornung <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Information for Massachusetts Charter Schools
Date: August 26, 2005 4:50:08 PM EDT
To: Kara Hornung <[REDACTED]>
▶ 1 Attachment, 99.9 KB

Dear Charter School Leader:

There's no doubt you have heard the buzz all summer about the Massachusetts Federation of Teachers' effort to unionize charter schools. Here at the Center for Education Reform (CER) we have been working 'round the clock to ensure that you and your teachers, along with your local media are receiving good information.

Just this morning the *Boston Herald* ran an editorial we thought you'd enjoy reading and sharing. Link to www.edreform.com <<http://www.edreform.com>> for the most up-to-date coverage on Massachusetts' charter schools or scroll down to read the coverage in this email.

We have had great response from leaders and teachers alike, but have been asked by a few teachers for additional information about alternative professional teacher organizations and the benefits of charter schools remaining union free. Attached we have also provided you with a side-by-side comparison of benefits that one alternative, the Association of American Educators, has put together for Massachusetts charter school teachers.

Because teachers have asked us to help get the word out among their colleagues in other Massachusetts charter schools, we are willing to provide your school with enough "info packets" to be passed out to all of your staff. You may respond to this email or call and let us know how many packets you will need and we can ship or Fed-Ex them to you immediately.

Best wishes as you head Back-to-School and thank you for the wonderful work you are doing to educate America's children.

Sincerely,

Kara Hornung

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Union push backfires
By Boston Herald editorial staff
Friday, August 26, 2005

Since the Massachusetts Teachers Federation launched a campaign to unionize charter school teachers in June, about 50 of the 2,000 eligible signed on.

Union honcho Ed Doherty dubs that a success. According to our math, it's about one teacher per school. But who's counting?

Now, the MTF is cooking up creative ways to infiltrate the charter school ranks – including \$100 payments to

teachers who sign up for focus groups staged by the union (a fact they aren't told up front), which then urges them to join.

It's a particularly sneaky way for the union to squeeze information from teachers that they can then use in their recruitment drive. And we all know at the heart of that drive is the goal of taking charter schools down.

But charter school teachers are getting creative, too.

The Washington-based Center for Education Reform this week said they have been ``deluged with interest'' from teachers who want access to benefits like liability insurance, but don't want to be beholden to a union.

By design, charter schools free teachers and administrators from the bureaucratic nonsense that hamstring traditional public schools - especially the vise-like control exerted by unions.

We're confident that most charter school teachers, committed as they are to innovative education reform, will reject any effort to undermine that mission.

Doherty can spin it any way he wants. But so far, most of them are doing just that.

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Charter schools resist union bid

The Boston Herald

By Kimberly Atkins

Thursday, August 25, 2005

A drive to unionize charter school teachers - complete with paid focus groups - is being met by a movement by teachers and reform groups who say the union would destroy the autonomy that allows charter schools to thrive.

``We became deluged with interest'' in union alternatives, said Jeanne Allen, president of the Washington-based Center for Education Reform, one group behind the word-of-mouth campaign to give teachers information about nonunion associations that offer benefits like liability insurance.

Reform advocates say the fact that only about 50 of the state's 2,000 charter school teachers have joined the Massachusetts Teachers Federation is evidence of lack of interest.

But Ed Doherty, special assistant to the union's president, called the drive a success.

``I am encouraged that 50 have already signed up,'' he said, adding that the long-term campaign - launched in June - is still in its early stages.

Sarah Rosenberg, a teacher at Edward Brooke Charter School in Roslindale, said she first learned of the union campaign after being offered \$100 to participate in a focus group in July. She said she and the majority of the other charter school teachers in the group were uninterested in membership.

``At the end of the meeting they gave us the letter'' from the MTF urging teachers to join, Rosenberg said. Until then, she said, she had no idea the focus group was commissioned by union officials.

American Teachers Federation spokesman Stephen Crawford confirmed the ATF conducted focus groups in Boston and Philadelphia, calling them ``extremely valuable in identifying the needs and wants of teachers.''

Crawford said he couldn't confirm whether the recruitment letter was given to the groups.

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COMPARISON OF MASSACHUSETTS TEACHER BENEFITS

<i>Program Features</i>	<i>Association of American Educators (AAE)</i>	<i>Massachusetts Federation of Teachers (MFT)</i>
Discounted Membership Fee for Charter School Teachers for 2005-2006 School Year	Full Professional Membership (includes \$2 million liability coverage) \$75.00	Associate Membership (includes \$1 million liability coverage) \$58.00
Normal Annual Fee	\$150	\$600
Normal Monthly Fee	\$12.50 (x12 months = \$150 annual cost)	\$50 (x12 months = \$600 annual cost)
Professional Liability Insurance Coverage	\$2 million professional liability insurance	\$1 million professional liability coverage
Legal Defense Coverage if you are unlawfully terminated	Up to \$5,000 in legal defense coverage. (AAE members are able to choose his or her own attorney, regardless of the claim or members can access AAE's attorney referral network. There is no approval needed by a committee.)	Up to \$10,000 in legal defense coverage (Applies to situations that occur after you become a member, requiring MFT approval and only using attorneys provided by the MFT Legal Defense Committee)
TermLife Insurance Policy	\$30,000 for initial year at no cost	\$10,000 for initial year at no cost
Teacher Representation on Employment Problems	Yes	Yes, if approved by committee
Professional Intervention and Assistance on Work-Related issues	Yes	Yes, if approved by committee
Additional Benefits	AAE "Education Matters" Publication	MFT and AFT Newspapers
	Networking opportunities with other teachers	Networking opportunities with other teachers
	Additional group discounted insurance plans including life, auto, and professional liability through AAE's insurance administrator Forrest T. Jones & Company, Inc.	B&M Insurance offers discount insurance programs such as home insurance, auto, disability for MFT members.
	Teacher scholarships and classroom mini-grants	Low rate AFT MasterCard
		Access to Mass Buying Power (discounts and cash back rebates on major consumer goods)
		Statewide discounts on theme parks, museums, entertainment, and more
		AFT Quarterly Journal
Contact information	www.aaeteachers.org /800-704-7799	www.mfteducator.org /800-279-2523

Source: Association of American Educators
Massachusetts Federation of Teachers

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