

Dear Unity 205 members,

We need your help! There are many pressing issues of importance to our seven bargaining units. Some are priorities for everyone; others are specific to the interests of our constituencies.

We need your "voices" to join with your leaderships' in getting our concerns and goals to the School Board members.

We are asking that everyone write a letter to the School Board and send it to Unity 205 by Feb. 3rd.

If we have the kind of response needed, we will present the letters to the Board at their February 9th meeting. But this will ONLY have an impact with the Board and Rockford media if we have HUNDREDS (better yet, thousands) of letters to present.

We ask that the focus of your letters in this particular letter-writing campaign involve an area/areas primarily related to:

****Student Discipline & School and/or Bus Safety**

****Fair and prompt settlement of contracts (now and those expiring soon)**

****Collaboration with our bargaining units in development of programs, policies, or procedures & other areas such as professional development**

WE NEED THIS SCHOOL BOARD TO REALIZE THAT OUR SEVEN UNIONS ARE COMPRISED OF DEDICATED, HARD-WORKING PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIVERSE EXPERTISE TO OFFER AND WHO DESERVE TO BE VALUED AS SUCH.

You may, of course, use your own format if you are comfortable doing so. If you aren't sure where to start or how to frame your letter, we would like to offer assistance. Included on the next page is a sample to help you design your own letter. Whichever approach you choose, the letters will have the most impact if you:

- 1) Identify yourself. (The Board is dismissive of communications that are not signed. (See #3.)
- 2) Hand-write or otherwise personalize your letter.
- 3) Offer specific examples whenever possible to clarify a problem. (The Board, via President David Kelley, has publicly stated that they want facts and that nobody will be punished for providing them.)
- 4) Offer positive suggestions for improvement in the areas of concern you address.

Please participate in this letter-writing campaign and give your letter to a union rep personally or via board mail. (The IEA office receives board mail.) Or send via US mail to:

Unity 205
AFSCME
212 S. First ST
Rockford 61104

OR

Unity 205
IEA
4949 Harrison AV, Suite 102
Rockford, IL 61108

Please be sure to get them to us by Wednesday, February 3rd.

SAMPLE LETTER

(Make it "your own" – as detailed or brief as works for you.)

(Date)

Dear President Kelley and Members of the Board of Education,

My name is (your name), and I am a member of (your union name.) I work at (work location) and have worked for District 205 for (length of service.)

I am writing to you because I am concerned about [describe your top priority issue(s).]

It is my belief that it is only through the District and our union(s) working together that this issue (these issues) can be resolved and the shared goal of better education achieved. I would like to offer the following suggestion(s) as a way (ways) to attain this goal.

(Offer a positive idea you have on improving the situation you're concerned about.)

I am confident that my union's leadership, my fellow members, and I would appreciate and look forward to a positive relationship with Administration, given the opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

(Your name)

(Your contact information, if you desire.)

Unity 205 thanks you in advance for your involvement!

AFSCME Locals

IEA/NEA Locals

692 Paraprofessionals

Educational Office Personnel Association (EOPA)

1275 School Bus Drivers

Educational Interpreters Association (EIA)

3210 Food Service Workers

Rockford Education Association (REA)

Rockford Building Maintenance Association (RBMA)