

THE LARGEST AND STRONGEST VOICE FOR EDUCATION

2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE LAST WEEKS OF FEBRUARY



TIME TO RESTORE THE STATE MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE

2% raise in the state budget

State Board of Education gutted schedule in June

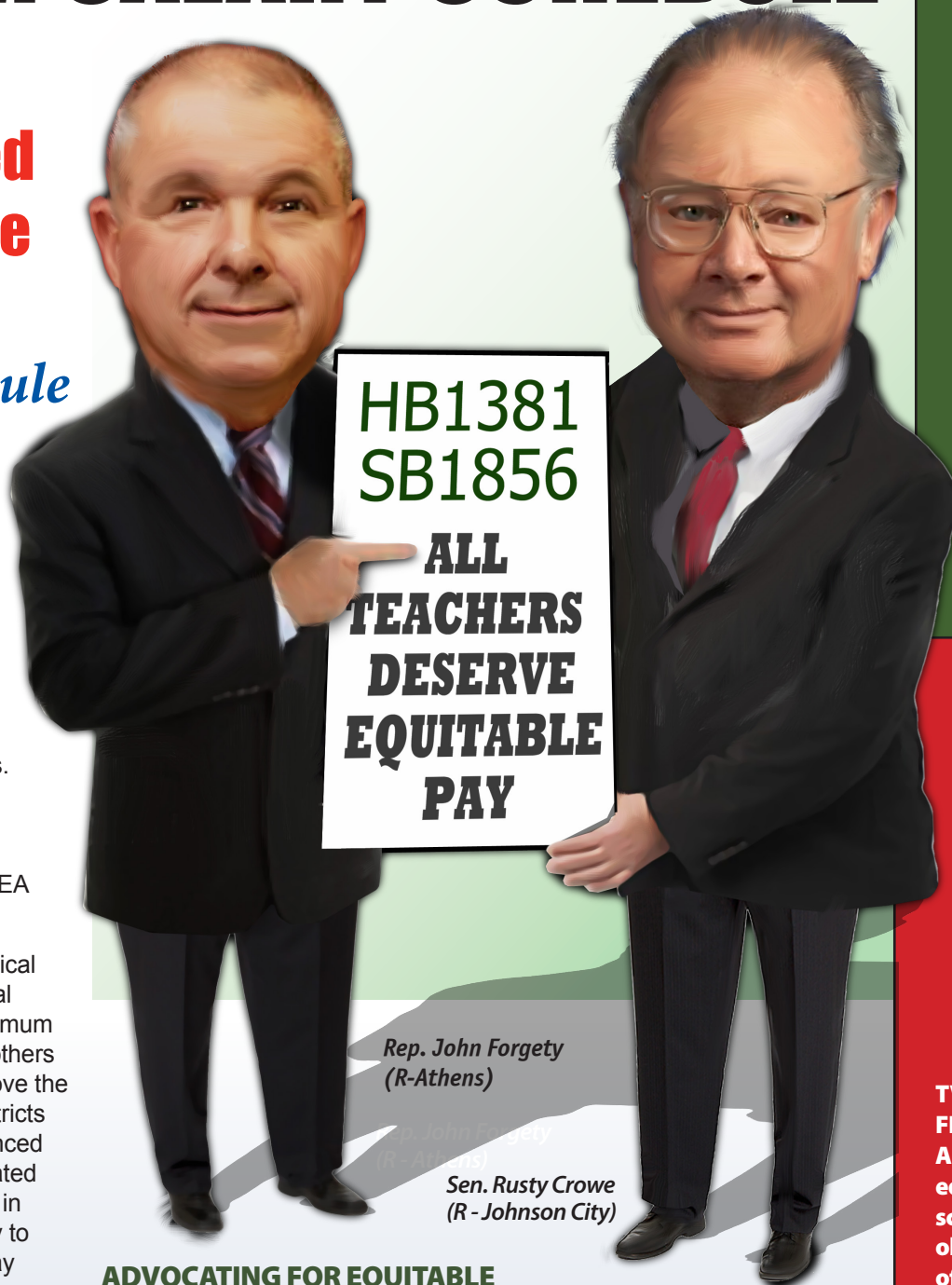
TEA-backed bill will extend schedule to 20 years and restore advanced degree categories

Last June — at the behest of State Education Commissioner Kevin Huffman — the State Board of Education (SBE) gutted the state minimum salary schedule for teachers. The SBE collapsed the schedule from 20 steps to three and combined four advanced degree categories into one. The move was strongly opposed by TEA and key lawmakers.

The minimum salary schedule is a critical issue for thousands of teachers in rural districts. Three systems used the minimum as their schedule, and more than 30 others were just a few percentage points above the minimum. Many teachers in these districts landed on the minimum as they advanced in their career. The schedule was created in response to Supreme Court rulings in the Small Schools lawsuits. It was key to maintaining some equity in teacher pay between rich and poor districts.

House Education Committee Vice-Chair Rep. John Forgety and Senate Education Committee member Sen. Rusty Crowe are sponsoring a bill to restore the schedule to 20 years and include advanced degree categories of masters, masters-plus-45, education specialist, and doctorate. TEA strongly backs the bill, which has over 40 sponsors in the House and key Senate sponsors.

In response to TEA efforts, the governor added an additional \$14.5 million for teacher pay going to Tennessee's lowest paying districts — a very good step toward pay equity.



Rep. John Forgety (R-Athens)

Sen. Rusty Crowe (R-Johnson City)

ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE TEACHER SALARIES ACROSS TENNESSEE

Rep. John Forgety and Sen. Rusty Crowe are sponsors of restoring the state minimum salary schedule for teachers. Each are known as a strong supporter of teachers!

Barring test scores in licensure gains more support

AN UNPRECEDENTED NUMBER OF COSPONSORS HAVE SIGNED ON TO THE TEA-BACKED EDUCATOR RESPECT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT. Now 80 of 99 representatives in the General Assembly have signed on to the signature bill that would prevent tying teaching licenses to standardized test scores. The SBE reversed its flawed decision on January 31, but we need to put safeguards into law. THIS BILL WILL LET US TAKE BACK THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

Making sure TVAAS scores don't corrupt observation scores!

TVAAS SCORES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY FLAWED BECAUSE THEY CAN VARY AND HAVE A LARGE ERROR RATE. Yet the department of education has demanded that observation scores correlate with TVAAS scores, lowering observation grades unfairly for thousands of teachers. Any good and fair teacher evaluation system needs to have multiple measures. The only way to have multiple measures is for them to be independent! Rep. David Hawk (R-Greenville) and Sen. Janice Bowling (R-Tullahoma) are sponsoring a TEA-backed bill that would prohibit any SDE rules to force observation to match TVAAS.

TEA GETS RESULTS!

GOVERNOR PUTS ADDITIONAL \$14.5 MILLION FOR TEACHER PAY EQUITY! FUNDS GOING TO DISTRICTS WHERE TEACHERS HAVE LOW PAY AND OFTEN DID NOT GET THIS YEAR'S RAISE.

Additional funds are a response to TEA's fight on salary schedule and bills to restore it.

Voucher fight begins in coming weeks!



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