



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
Issue 2 – July 30, 2014

News & Notes

News & Notes will be a weekly (that's the goal) publication that will be available on the CTU website and through Member Mobilization emails. This will be an update of the work that is being done on behalf of all of our teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, speech language pathologists, therapists, sign language interpreters, and social workers.

Grievances

The Grievance Team continues to present a number of individual Grievances (in addition to class actions that have been filed) regarding observations, student growth measures, and teacher effectiveness ratings. If you believe that you need to file a Grievance regarding any of these areas – it is not too late. For assistance or further information contact Jillian Ahrens, Mary Moore, or Shari Obrenski. The Grievance Team also spent time in arbitration this week, continuing to fight for members who wrongly disciplined.

SIG Schools

Mark Baumgartner wants everyone to know that there have been 8 SIG schools identified for the 2014-2015 school year. They are: **Adlai Stevenson, Alfred Benesch, Bolton, Case, Collinwood, Fullerton, Patrick Henry, and Robert Jamison.**

To that end, the district has set up two days of meetings (August 4 & August 5) with state support personnel. Teachers who attend will be compensated at the \$41.16/hour rate. The meetings are not mandatory for teachers to attend.

Principals may have emailed their staff saying they are mandatory meetings, but they are not.

The meetings are mandatory for the principals and that mandatory notice may have been misunderstood by the principals.

AGAIN, the following dates (August 4 & August 5) are voluntary for teachers, but if teachers attend they will be compensated at \$41.16 an hour.

Monday, August 4. 8:30 am-3:00 pm @ Cleveland Hilton East Beachwood

- * Teacher leader teams are encouraged to attend.
- * This is a group of 4 or 5 teachers.
- * You and your principal should decide who is the best fit from your AAP, APT, and UCC.
- * Again, this is only for a team of 4 or 5 teachers.

Tuesday, August 5. 8:30 am-3:00 pm @ Cleveland Hilton East Beachwood

- * The entire teaching staff of the school is invited.
- * This is not mandatory but the entire teaching staff is invited.

I would work with your principal to identify teachers for August 4 and contact them individually. You can send out notice to your staff about the August 5 invitation.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Mark through email or phone (216-861-7676 ext 272).

Politics

Kurt's countdown to Election Day 2014 continues with less than 100 days to selecting a new Governor and state wide office holders. Phone Banks and Labor Walks will begin in August. If you are interested in becoming involved in this important political campaign, please email Kurt Richards krichards@ctu279.org. Ohio lawmakers have more and more impact on education, unions, the middle class, women, the environment and don't forget about Right to Work which keeps bubbling right below the surface. Elections matter.

Phase II Investment Schools

There is a rumor that Phase II schools will work a longer day to make up for the 5 day delay in the start of the student school year – that is NOT true. The length of the school day remains as is.

License Renewal

Everyone that has a license that expires in 2014 should have already applied and paid for license online and submitted appropriate paperwork to CMSD. The average wait time to have license approved in CMSD (according to ODE site) is 16 days. We know some have been far more due to technical issues with the new system and the huge influx of applications in May and June. If you have completed your application and payment with the ODE and you are still waiting for approval, please check your CMSD and personal emails for an email from ODE or CMSD to see what the issue is. All licenses with applications, payments, and complete materials submitted to the district have been approved as of July 29. Anyone who has applied and not been approved should have received an email from ODE or CMSD. You can also email Tracy Radich who is working with the District to facilitate the process.

46th Annual Hispanic Parade

Bonnie Hedges would like to remind everyone of a Summer of Goodwill activity on Sunday, August 3 as the CTU will be at the 46th Annual Puerto Rican Parade from 1:30 p.m. to about 3:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us. We will be meeting at E13th and Superior. We will be walking the Parade route which will take us westbound to East 9th Street turning to North Marginal Road to event grounds. We will be handing out bags to the community along the Parade route. Remember to wear your CTU shirts!

Common Core Legislation

House Republicans announced Monday they will take up legislation to scrap the Common Core academic content standards and related tests, with plans to have the measure passed out of committee in August. Speaker Pro Tempore Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) and Rep. Andy Thompson (R-Marietta) introduced the placeholder bill (HB 597), which would eliminate the standards and tests and replace them with something different that has been proven effective elsewhere in the country. It will be heard in the Rules Committee twice per week starting Aug. 12. House Speaker Bill Batchelder (R-Medina) has indicated the bill would not come to the floor until November.

In July the CTU Executive Board passed a Motion to call for a Pause to administering PARCC assessments and using the results for high stakes decision making for both students and educators until it is ensured that districts are prepared (as educators, students, and with technology infrastructure), the tests are proven valid, and the tests are fair for all groups of students (urban, rural, suburban, special needs, ELL, etc.). The Executive Board would work with Ohio legislators to have a bill

introduced and form a coalition with other OFT locals, independent, and NEA locals to influence the legislation and convince legislators of the need to put brakes on the stakes. This move by the Republicans is interesting (with a vote not coming until after the November elections). CTU is working with local legislators, our lobbyist, and our partners to see what is the best way to proceed. We need to make sure that the right things happen for our teachers, paraprofessionals, related service providers, and our students. We will keep you posted.

Differentiated Compensation

All members who were on the Cleveland Differentiated Compensation System (CDCS) during the 2013-14 school year can now verify their current Achievement Credit (AC) totals, as well as other awards they are due through CDCS. Please go to your CMSD e-mail for information sent by Roseann Canfora on Wednesday, July 30 at 5:06 p.m. for an explanation and step-by-step instructions. The CDCS information is being temporarily housed in a portal through Battelle for Kids. If you have any difficulty getting into the portal, or you believe that your information in the portal is incorrect, please contact the Battelle help desk number at 866.543.7555 between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. If you have general questions about CDCS, please contact the Joint Governing Panel at mbx.jgp@clevelandmetroschools.org. If you have an issue with your information that is not resolved by the close of business on Friday, August 8, please contact Shari at Shari.Obrenski@clevelandmetroschools.org.

Joint Special Education Committee

There is a mandatory meeting on Monday August 11th for Intervention Specialists and Related Service Providers. Your principal or supervisor has been asked to submit their request for either morning or afternoon session for your school. The morning and afternoon session will be held at three different locations. More information will be sent via CMSD email to all Intervention Specialists and Related Service Providers at the end of next week.