



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
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NEWS & NOTES

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

RSP OVERAGES

As a result of a successful arbitration last year, many of our Related Service Providers are now eligible for overage pay when their caseload/workload exceeds the standards in the CBA. Our Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech Language Pathologists, Psychologists and Audiologists will be paid for overages this year as well as retroactively for overages in the 13-14 school year. Third Vice Presidents Mary Moore & Shari Obrenski have been working with the RSP chapter chairs and Director of Special Ed Services for CMSD, Jessica Baldwin, to develop the MOUs and the process by which our members will apply for overage pay. This has been a long process but the results have not only helped those RSPs mentioned but have opened the door for further negotiations regarding overage payment for other groups in CTU.

NEW HIRE SALARY PLACEMENT

The CDCS Joint Oversight Committee has resolved the New Hire Salary Placement issue. All new hires for 2013-2014 and 2014-15 should have received an e-mail with general information about salary placement, as well as a personal e-mail with salary details earlier this week. In general, new hires will be placed on the CDCS Salary Schedule based upon previous teaching experience, other relevant experience, specialized training, and accomplished ratings under another Danielson-based evaluation system. Documentation relating to any of the areas listed must be sent to Amanda Artbauer in Human Resources no later than Friday, January 23. If any New Hire believes the placement is incorrect, he or she should send an e-mail to Amanda Artbauer and copy Christine Costello and Shari Obrenski with that concern as soon as possible.

GRIEVANCES

The Grievance Committee, chaired by Jillian Ahrens and Mary Moore, has been meeting weekly to hold Step III Hearings with grievants and the administration. These hearings in many cases are to resolve issues that have either not been responded to within the 20 work day window or if the grievant wants to go to the next step. There have now been over 520 grievances filed. If you have questions on your grievance, please feel free to contact Jillian (jahrens@ctu279.org) or Mary (mmoore@ctu279.org).

LICENSE RENEWAL

Anyone that has a certificate, license, or permit that needs to be renewed in 2015, should have received an email from Human Resources informing them of the licenses that need to be renewed. Certificates, licenses and permits need to be in the teacher's/RSP's/paraprofessional's hand prior to the beginning of the school year. The certificate, license, or permit expires on June 30 – it saves so much stress if you have your new license in your hand by June 30.

In the email was a detailed letter with lots of information. That information was sent via Member Mobilization email and is also posted on the CTU website. Additional questions, contact Tracy Radich (tradich@ctu279.org) or Jim Wagner (jwagner@ctu279.org).

PARENT CONFERENCES

When you are entering grades into ESchool for this second marking period, please take a moment to also mark any parent contacts that have been made this school year - or any new contacts since the last time you marked them in ESchool (which would have been interim 1 or grade period 1). HB 525 requires parents or guardians of students to attend at least one parent teacher conference prior to December 15, however the District is still keeping track of parents who have attended any of a myriad of events to meet with and talk with teachers. The only way for the District to know what parents have attended, is for teachers to check mark parents who have attended conferences, SST meetings, curriculum

meetings, etc. is if teachers take a moment to mark it in ESchool while doing interims or report cards. Here at Gallagher you and your parents make many valuable and it is important to mark the parents that do make the effort to meet with you. If you have not done it this year it is a drop box on ESchool and you only mark parents that have attended. If you marked a parent has attended already this school year, you do not need to mark it again.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Cindy Antonio and the Salary & Benefits Committee invite everyone to their Money Management Workshop on February 17 from 3:30-6:00 tentatively scheduled for BBB. The District is in process of transferring all Professional Development to the East Professional Development Center (formerly known as East High School). When the transition is complete all PD that was at BBB will be hosted at East.

BBB to EAST

As mentioned above, PD will eventually be transitioned from BBB to East PD Center (formerly known as East High School). New parking and lighting is being added at East High. Already housed at East are: Safety & Security, JGP, Athletics, and Operations.

ENCORE TEACHER SLOs

The encore SLO assessment window will be January 20 through February 2, 2015. An email was sent to all principals to inform them that all Encore teachers must maintain the class(es) selected for their SLOs.

Remember the encore assessments are given to the following grade levels and these are the classes that may be impacted if a semester change is scheduled:

Art Grades 2-3; 6-7
Music Grades 3-4 or 7-8
Physical Education Grades 1-2 or 5

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact our SLO team at SLO@clevelandmetroschools.org.

3rd Grade Only Administering OAA

In case you missed it - there has been another change to the Spring Reading Test that will be administered to 3rd graders this year. This is a good change. Right at the end of the year, Governor Kasich signed HB 367 into law which will make the following change:

All third graders will now take the Ohio Achievement Assessment in reading in spring 2015. Districts will not have the complication of administering different tests to students who passed the fall reading test and students who didn't. This provides a simple and clean transition for the 2015-2016 school year, when **all third** graders take the PARCC-designed reading test.

It has been back and forth with the legislature trying to determine what reading test(s) third graders will take this spring. HB 367 was a catch-all bill at the end of the legislative session. It makes sense to have all 3rd graders taking the OAA in the spring instead of some taking OAA and some taking PARCC.

PAUSE ON PARCC

An email is coming to you asking that you get in touch with Senator Peggy Lehner and your elected State Senator encouraging him/her to vote on legislation that would put a Pause on PARCC for high stakes decision making for students and educators. David, Kurt, and the CTU Executive Board are asking for your help to send these emails to your legislator. This is only the beginning of the emails and (eventually) postcards that we will ask to be sent. Several legislators have told us that when they begin to get 20+ emails on the same topic, then they are forced to look into the issue and pay attention to the issue. Your email will make a difference.

The Cleveland Teachers Union is opposed to using a brand new test with no proof of validity or the school district's technological capability and using those results to make decisions regarding graduation; retention; promotion to a new grade; determining a child's academic growth; or determining an educator's compensation, position for lay-off, or formal evaluation.

Administering PARCC assessments in Ohio and using the results to make high stakes decisions regarding students and educators must be paused until it is ensured that districts are prepared, the tests are proven valid, and the tests are fair to all groups of students (urban, rural, suburban, special needs, ELL, etc.).

The Cleveland Teachers Union is calling for legislation that will put a brake to the stakes by putting a 3 year PAUSE ON PARCC for high stakes until delay ensures Preparedness, Validity, and Fairness.