



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.

PAUSE ON PARCC

A message from David regarding testing and using PARCC for high stakes decisions: There is way too much testing. The CTU is opposed to the entire over testing of our students. Some of these tests are required by the District, some are state mandated, some are a result of 3rd grade guarantee law, some are needed for SLOs. It is just too much. Tracy Radich, Shari Obrenski, Mary Moore, and I have all been to Columbus talking to law makers and ODE about the over testing, the impact on students, and the classroom. There are many Ohio law makers who want to figure out a way to reduce testing. Republican and Democrats agree the kids are over-tested and it is getting worse with the introduction of PARCC. I think that this is going to be a priority for legislators this legislative session. Believe me; we are all working on this.

What the CTU does not want to get lost in the mix is the fact that the regardless of if and when the Ohio General Assembly acts on the over-testing piece, PARCC is going to be administered this year. In addition to reducing testing, it is a priority of the CTU to try to get legislation introduced and passed that will NOT allow the results to be used for any high stakes decisions. That is the PAUSE on PARCC for high stakes decisions.

These are 2 separate and very important issues and we need to be emphasizing both of these issues. Over-testing is already on the legislative radar. We need PARCC not being used for high-stakes decisions to also be on the legislative radar.

Since legislators are already hearing from constituents and focusing on over testing – please help the CTU put PAUSE ON PARCC on the legislative agenda by emailing your State Senator.

SALARY & BENEFITS UPCOMING EVENTS

The Salary & Benefits Committee wants everyone to be aware of 2 upcoming events. The first is on February 17 from 3:30 – 6:00 the Salary and Benefits Committee will be having a fair for members to meet with the various 403B organizations to sign up for additional information. Plus, other union friendly companies will be there to help out with making wise economic decisions.

The second event in February will be the Part 2 of the Retirement Meeting for members who are retiring this year. There will be a session from 3-4 or 5-6 at Valic Financial Advisors located at 3 Summit Park Drive, Independence 44131.

Cleveland Saves a Life Day- CPR-AED- First Aid

Patricia Forrai-Gunter the School Nurses Chapter Chair wants to make sure that everyone is aware that Friday, February 13 is CPR day for CMSD. That day is also a professional day. Any school that wants to have a group of school nurse CPR instructors train and certify you for two years in CPR, AED, and First Aid should have a discussion with the Chapter Chair and Principal. If this is agreed to be a part of the PD day, then one person from the school must call Debbie Aloschen at 216-544-9272 to make arrangements. The certification for two years will cost you \$10.00 if you want a certificate. If you don't need the certificate the class is free. We are prepared to service up to 25 schools, so call now if your school is interested.

PARAPROFESSIONAL PD

Cherylane Jones-Williams wants to thank the paraprofessionals that helped to arrange Para-Professional Day on January 6. Anton Grdina hosted the paraprofessionals from Anton, Robert Jamison, and Luis Munoz Marin for a day of development and discussion. Cherylane and Michael Williams presented on topics including roles of a para, rights of a para, understanding the CBA, working with the classroom teacher, etc. Jill

Cabe lead a discussion on TDES and collecting evidence. If your school is interested in Para-Professional Development please contact Cherylane Jones Williams (216) 861-7676 ext. 241.

LICENSE RENEWAL

Anyone that has a certificate that expires this year, should plan on turning in all renewal documents ASAP. Save the stress – don't wait until the last minute.

One change that began as of September 2014 – licenses will no longer be mailed as a hard copy. Once the license is issued, it will be emailed to the district and to the educator. ODE has noted that people with gmail accounts are having some problems, as the emails from ODE seem to go directly to SPAM or junk folder.

ODE WAIVING LICENSURE FEES FOR MILITARY

In January, the Ohio Department of Education announced it will waive teacher licensure fees for military members and their spouses. The agency said the fee waiver applies to all educator license applicants who are veterans, current service members or spouses of current members, as well as members of the National Guard or Reserves. The state has 45 different types of licenses, ranging from a teaching aide permit at \$25 for the license, to any professional license, which tends to cost about \$200. The applicants will have to provide their DD214 form that indicates they have military credentials.

CONVERSATION WITH CTU PRESIDENT

Common Good Ohio and the Cleveland Teachers Union are teaming up to host a Breakfast Conversation with CTU President David Quolke. Parents, community members, and educators are invited to join the discussion. Tracy Radich will also discuss PARCC testing. Saturday, January 24 at the Walz Branch Library 7910 Detroit Avenue from 10:00am – 12:00pm.