



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

CTU President & 1st Vice President David Quolke and Tracy Radich spent Wednesday in Columbus talking to State Senators. The CTU is actively working for legislation that would NOT allow the results of the PARCC assessments to be used for high stakes decisions (compensation, tenure, termination, retention) for adults and students. We have great elected Democrats from this area, who get our concerns and agree. So, David and Tracy spent their day mostly meeting (once again) with Republican Senators. David and Tracy met with Senate President, Keith Faber; Tom Patton; Scott Oleslager; Minority Leader Joe Schiavoni; among several other positive meetings in the Statehouse.

There is concern on both sides of the aisle over the over-testing of students and the PARCC itself. While legislators hold hearings, listen to teachers and constituents, form focus groups – the leadership of the CTU will continue (with your help) to make our message heard. We need legislation that will not allow the results of the PARCC test to be used for high stakes decisions.

Have you emailed your State Senator yet? It is not too late and is an important piece to having our message heard throughout Ohio. Email your Senator today, to let him/her know that PARCC results should NOT be allowed to be used to make high stakes decisions that impact students or teachers. Time to slam a BRAKE ON THE STAKES.

CDHR WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 11

The CDHR Committee, Chaired by Stephanie Henderson wants to remind everyone of their upcoming workshop on Wednesday, February 11. The workshop "It's Not Black History – It's Our History" is from

3:15 - 4:15 at East Professional Center (East High). Anyone interested in attending MUST register by emailing shenderson@ctu279.org.

RIMPs

RIMPs that were submitted by K-3 teachers in December were reviewed and feedback has been given to principals to share with teachers. This information is not punitive, but to be used to improve or correct RIMPs for the next submission. If there is anything that needs to be corrected on the RIMP (ex. missing required signatures, missing ID number, etc.) those corrections should be made for the next RIMP submission. December RIMPs are NOT to be resubmitted. Anything that needs to be fixed should be fixed for next submission - NOT resubmitted now. The next RIMP submission is April 6-10. Questions regarding RIMPs can be emailed to tgrg@clevelandmetroschools.org.

UPCOMING PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Michelle Rzucidlo-Rupright wants to make sure everyone is aware of the upcoming dates for parent teacher conferences. On Thursday, February 12 and Wednesday, April 29 – all students will be dismissed from school 2 hours early and CTU members will stay an additional 2 hours after dismissal for a 4 hour parent conference. This will be where teachers hand out Interim Reports. The 2 additional hours after dismissal make up part of the 6 hours for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. In previous years it was 2, three hour Report Card Pick-ups – this year it is 3, two hour Interim Pick-ups. The first two hours were completed the week of November 17. Tuesday, March 24 is a full Parent Teacher Conference Day. These dates are also in your CTU calendar book.

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 hosted a Conversation with CTU President, David Quolke. Over 50 parents and community members attended and engaged with President Quolke in a multitude of topics. Tracy Radich discussed the upcoming PARCC Assessments, what the tests will look like for the kids, and how parents can help to prepare students for these assessments. Parents are very concerned about the tests and the implications for their children. The next Breakfast Conversation will be on February 21. Location to be announced.

IPDP

Jim Wagner & Bonnie Hedges are continuing to do IPDP Sessions at schools. If your school has 4+ people interested in a session, your Building Chair should contact Jim Wagner (jwagner@ctu279.org) to schedule a Help Session for your building. Groups can also contact Jim. Jim and Bonnie have presented to school psychologists, Basic Skills, Transition Services, etc.

If you are renewing your license and need your IPDP approval email and cannot find it. That is ok. Go into the IPDP system; go to the screen with your name, address, licenses, etc.; on that screen it will show your IPDP approval date – print this screen.

If you need IPDP username and password - email Jim Wagner (James Wagner in CMSD), Bonnie Hedges, or Tracy Radich.

TDES JOINT MESSAGE

This Joint message was sent from TDES Chairs on January 29. While the TDES Steering Committee is working out the final details of a compressed cycle for 14-15, teachers who are newly hired or recently returned from extended leave, should begin TDES with

Walkthrough1, followed by the Formal Announced Observation. Evaluators should begin the observation for these teachers immediately. The remaining, additional evaluation events will be identified and communicated as soon as possible. Again, evaluators should begin with Walkthrough 1 and then proceed with the Formal Announced Observation.

If a teacher has not had any evaluation events this year and feels a compressed cycle would be appropriate, the teacher should email TDES@clevelandmetroschools.org with the details in order to be considered for a compressed cycle.

8th & 9th GRADE TEACHERS

8th and 9th grade teachers are invited to attend a professional development session offered by the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education next Saturday, February 7 from 8:30 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m. The OCLRE came to OFT and CTU and asked if we would help them get this valuable information to our members.

While we understand that everyone is test-weary, we know that our members want to provide students with any tool they can to experience success. The OCLRE will provide our 8th and 9th grade teachers with ready-to-use classroom materials to help them teach students how to decipher and analyze Supreme Court Decisions, legal documents, and secondary sources. Supreme Court Decision analysis has been part of the released PARCC sample questions.

Parking in the Halle Garage will be paid, and a light breakfast and pizza lunch will be provided, in addition to the classroom materials.

Pre-registration is required. If you have any questions or need the link for registration, please contact Mark Baumgartner or Shari Obrenski.