



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.

CONGRATULATIONS CLEVELAND CAVS!!

The Cleveland Teachers Union sends hearty congratulations to the champion Cleveland Cavaliers! It has been an exciting time watching the Cavs work together through the season and throughout the playoff run. Next year is Now! The Cavs run to the championship has turned an entire world of fans into believers. Each and every day we have champions in our CMSD schools. Our teachers, paraprofessionals, psychologists, nurses, speech pathologists, substitutes, OTs, PTs, and sign language interpreters believe in our kids and all that they can accomplish. We all deserve a contract from CMSD that is good for kids and fair for educators. The district wants to punt that down the road until next year, but this whole community knows – next year is now. It is time for CMSD to be serious about negotiating a contract that fixes broken promises and treats all educators fairly. CTU members demand:

- To be treated with dignity and respect
- Fair evaluations for all educators
- Electives, libraries, career tech for kids
- Less testing
- Living wages for paraprofessionals

CTU loves the NBA champions and our CTU champions! Please visit our Facebook (Cleveland Teachers Union 279) and Twitter (@ctu279) for more messages from CTU to the Cavs.

CONGRATULATIONS TEACHERS

Congratulations to all of the teachers that were nominated by a CMSD colleague for the CMSD Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is sponsored by the Cleveland Foundation and the Gund Foundation in collaboration with the CTU and CMSD. This is an exciting way to recognize good teaching and good colleagues throughout the district. If you were nominated, please complete the application. The application lets the decision committee know what you do in your classroom each day and what makes you a teacher of excellence. Please take the time to brag about yourself!

Thanks also to all of the CTU members that took the time to nominate a colleague. It is important to recognize the hard work and commitment of our colleagues. This award is not possible without you recognizing the excellence in your colleague and you taking the time to make the nomination. Thanks!

3 WEEK PAY GAP

There will be a 3 week gap in pay again this summer. Last pay check for 2015-16 school year is on July 29. Next pay day (first pay of the new school year) would be August 12. We do not come back to work until Wednesday, August 10. That is too late to process payroll and get the money from the district to the banks before Friday. So that is why there is a 3 week gap. Then we will get paid the following week (2 pay checks in a row) so that we are back on the same schedule as everyone else.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

An update on the status of contract negotiations between the CTU and the CMSD was sent to members via personal email on June 23. If you do not receive Negotiations updates and other CTU updates via email, you can sign up now. Send an email with your Name, School, and Position to yolanda@ctu279.org.

VOLUNTARY PROFESSIONAL DAYS

All paraprofessionals and sign language interpreters have 3 Voluntary Professional Days in a school year. The first VPD Day is contiguous with the first day of the school year. For traditional schools the first day mandatory day for everyone to report is August 10, so the paraprofessional VPD will be on August 9. All other schools should adjust accordingly. Principals and UCCs shall plan accordingly with Paraprofessional Representative. If there questions, please contact Cherylane Jones-Williams at the CTU (216) 861-7676 ext. 241.

RESIGNATIONS DUE JULY 10

By state law, all certificated personnel that plan to resign from a school district MUST do so by July 10. If a teacher, related service provider, principal, etc. resigns after July 10 can have their Ohio license revoked for up to 2 years. A school district would have to go to the ODE for the license to be revoked. Over the last several years, the CMSD has not sought to have a license revoked if a certified staff member resigned after July 10. They very well may do it this year. If the district does seek to have license(s) revoked, they must pursue all people that resign after July 10 – they are not permitted to do it on a case by case basis. If they go after the license of one principal, one teacher, one related service provider, etc. then they must go to

ODE for everyone. Anyone that plans to resign and work in Ohio should make sure that they do resign by July 10.

HOW TO RESIGN OR RETIRE

Click here [CMSD's website](#) or go to CMSD then click > Departments > Human Resources > Leaving the District. The date that you submit your resignation or retirement form over the summer **does not** impact your health care. As long as you completed your 2015-16 contract, you will receive health care through August 31st.

STUFF THE BUS

The CDHR Committee and the Paraprofessionals are joining forces again this summer to participate in Stuff the Bus. A flyer will be sent out with a list of items needed. Any member that wishes to donate can bring a donation to the Cleveland Teachers Union or send a check to Cleveland Teachers Union in care of Cherylane Jones-Williams or Stephanie Henderson. All donations are due by July 30. All donations from Stuff the Bus go to the Kids in Need Resource Center (formerly known as Shoppa) that supports Cleveland teachers and students all school year. This is one of 42 free teacher stores in the country.

I CAN CHARTERS

Teachers and support staff at the 3 recently unionized I Can charter schools in Cleveland have overwhelmingly ratified their first collective bargaining agreement. They are the first charter school educators in Cleveland to have a collectively bargained contract. These teachers and support staff are members of the Cleveland Alliance of Charter Teachers and Staff (Cleveland ACTS), an affiliate of the Ohio Federation of Teachers.

Abi Haren, a second-grade assistant teacher at University of Cleveland Preparatory School, said, ***"We ratified a strong contract that gives my co-workers and me a voice in making I Can Schools better for our students and for educators. This agreement will allow me the freedom and autonomy to speak up for the needs of my students without fearing for my job security. We look forward to building a partnership with the I Can administration to strengthen our schools. This has been a long road to win a real voice in our school, and it would not have happened without the support of Cleveland Teachers Union President David Quolke and our fellow educators in the CTU. Their support, along with I Can families and community members, sent a clear message that we are professional educators who deserve respect for our commitment to Cleveland students."***

OHIO MATH ASSESSMENTS

This article comes from Gongwer News. This is a news organization that follows the actions, votes, debates, and politics of the Ohio Legislature. Is ODE Board President Gunlock inferring that kids do better on tests when teachers know better how to teach to the test? From Gongwer: *Early results showing high schoolers didn't do as well as expected on two state math tests this spring are prompting the State Board of Education to consider lowering the bar students must meet to graduate. Board members next week will take up a proposal lowering the scores students must achieve on those*

end-of-course exams to earn points toward graduation, President Tom Gunlock said. Their vote will modify scores that were set in January based off assumptions on how students would perform on the tests. "We guessed, so to speak, as to what the scores were going to be and we're pretty close on everything else. Geometry and Math II we didn't hit very well, though," he said in an interview. Earlier this year, the Department of Education told the board that it expected 59% of students to score proficient or above on state Geometry tests and 56% of students would be proficient or above in Math II at the selected cut scores. Preliminary results from test maker AIR show the proficiency rates were much lower, however. Just 24% of students were at least proficient in Geometry and 21% scored proficient or above in Math II. Lowering the score students must receive to reach proficiency on those end-of-course exams could respectively increase those totals to 52% and 35%, according to ODE. Mr. Gunlock said he's hopeful the board will be supportive of lowering the cut scores to address the mathematics "outliers," with the expectation that students will rise to the challenge to produce better results on future tests. "We've seen some test questions and we just need to adapt and make sure that the teachers are teaching the stuff that's important or doing a better job of it and everybody will adapt and overcome just like they did when the OGT came out," he said.

CLASS SIZE OVERAGE CHECKS

Per the CBA all class size overage checks are to be mailed by July 15.

SUBSTITUTE NOTICE

Per the CBA substitutes reappointed will be notified of their reappointment by June 30th of every year. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Cheryl Neylon (cneylon@ctu279.org).

TEACHERS, PARAS, RSPs TIME TO RENEW

Hopefully everyone with a license, certificate, or permit that expires in 2016 – has already renewed. All teachers, paraprofessionals, and RSPs must have a valid license, certificate, or permit on the first day of school. If you have any questions about the renewal process contact Tracy Radich (tradich@ctu279.org) or Jim Wagner (jwagner@ctu279.org).

FINAL EFFECTIVENESS RATING

The district did receive an extension from the state until June 30. As of Wednesday, June 15 the district had about 300 teachers left to input into the eTPES system. Most of those teachers were at the high school level. ACT data was received by the district on Tuesday. They are attempting to get all teachers impacted by that data completed by Friday, June 17.

There is no penalty for not reviewing eTPES. The review is to verify that the information that was manually entered to the ODE is correct. It is important, but there is no consequence to the teacher or related service provider that does not verify. I do think that it is an important step to verify that the information that ODE has that will make up your Final Effectiveness Rating is accurate. Emails are going out as the data is submitted to ODE, so that is why some members have received it and some members have not.

OUTSTANDING BLUE AWARD FOR MOBILIZATION

Congratulations teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service providers at JANE ADDAMS who receive the Outstanding Blue Award. These members mobilized to stand up for and with their colleagues, the kids of Cleveland, the Union movement, and the preservation of public education. JANE ADDAMS was out in force at the Board Meeting in May at Glenville High School. Thanks to all of these members. You are the CTU!

HEALTHSPAN

A special Open Enrollment Period for all CMSD employees that are currently enrolled in HealthSpan was held in May. The Open Enrollment period closed on May 31. Coverage under HealthSpan remains in place through August 31. Coverage with the new providers (either Aetna or MMO) will begin on September 1. This does mean that health care costs will go up for these members effective September 1. Any employee that did not make a selection during the Open Enrollment period will automatically be enrolled in Aetna with the same coverage and with the change in premium.

TEXT ALERTS

A text service is available for members of the CTU. You can sign up right now to receive mobile text message alerts from AFT-Cleveland Teachers Union. You will receive updates, notices, and reminders. Get your phone out right now and send a text message with the word ctu279 (lowercase, no spaces) in your message box. Send to the phone number 69238.

AFT-CTU will never charge you for text messages, your carrier's Message & Data rates may apply.