



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.

NWEA TESTING WINDOW 3/7 – 4/8

Please take note of the current NWEA testing window. This is an email sent from Mark Baumgartner on Feb. 26: *"There has been some real confusion about the window for spring NWEA testing. The district today arbitrarily moved the window up two weeks. After some real discussions about fairness for teachers the testing window is now four weeks long. The new NWEA testing window for the spring is now March 7 until April 8. The state in January moved up the state testing window and AIR and OGT would overlap with the NWEA test. The district was thinking that moving up the window was best, but my argument was that it's about fairness and our Effectiveness Rating. That is why I was able to get the window expanded and the end date moved back to after spring break."*

HEALTHSPAN

On March 1, Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) announced that they had made a deal to acquire HealthSpan. This was again surprising news in the ever changing saga of HealthSpan. For members that are currently covered by HealthSpan, nothing changes in the near future. The take-over is not in place until August 31.

STAFFING

Staffing timeline will be released on Monday, March 7. School budgets have been released to all schools. The budget is obviously what will determine staffing. The staffing timeline is a part of the CBA and requires several steps such as informing the Chair what positions are up for Necessary Transfer and allowing time for the Principal and Building Chair to offer alternative solutions. This timeline also provides members at a building to volunteer to become a Necessary Transfer in the place of someone who is currently identified. The staffing timeline is the only thing in the CBA that guarantees building knowledge and input regarding allocations being added or reduced. The goal is to have staffing done prior to the end of the school year so that everyone knows where they will be and what they will be doing next school year. If allocations are reduced at your school that necessitate transfers, the BEST Rubric is used to determine who will be identified for transfer if there are not sufficient volunteers. Paraprofessionals do not

need to complete a BEST Rubric. BEST Rubrics are verified by Principal and Chair and then checked again by Human Resources.

EVERY SCHOOL NEEDS A SCHOOL NURSE

AFT is utilizing CTU's very own Pat Forrai-Gunter (Pat the Nurse) to call on all AFT members to have a school nurse in every school. Nurses make a huge impact in schools and communities on a daily basis, but all too often they face overwhelming demands. Ask your Senators to support Nurses for Under-Resourced Schools Everywhere Act, which will increase the number of school nurses in under-resourced schools. To contact your Senator, click on the link: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/every-school-needs-a-school-nurse?source=direct_link&

OHIO PRIMARY

Seems like we are always in the midst of an important election cycle. Kurt Richards wants everyone to remember that the Ohio Primary is on March 15. In addition to the Presidential race there are many important down ballot primary races. We have all been impacted by legislation passed by the Ohio Legislature (3rd Grade Guarantee, Pause on PARCC, Common Core, etc.). Make sure that you vote and vote all the way down your ballot. The Ohio races are as important as the Presidential race.

PARAPROFESSIONAL NEWS

The Professional Development workshop scheduled for Thursday, April 28 (The year-end review) has been cancelled because the presenter is out on sick leave.

The workshop scheduled for Thursday, May 19 has been rescheduled and will take place at the Paraprofessional Annual Leadership Workshop Luncheon which will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The Keynote speaker for the luncheon will be Melissa Cropper, President of Ohio Federation of Teachers. Invitations for this event will be forthcoming. Please look out for your information regarding the Para luncheon. We will also be honoring Sandra Bennett who passed away on February 22, 2016 for all that she accomplished as a paraprofessional and a union leader.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Join us to send our message to the Board of Education and the Cleveland community at next Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March Euclid Park School (17914 Euclid Avenue) 6:30pm. Every voice matters! Wear your CTU blue!

CTU BLUE TUESDAYS

Let's turn our schools blue by wearing CTU blue on Tuesdays. Show your solidarity. Our unity shares a message in each school and throughout the district.

CMSD WALKS OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS

Shockingly, the CMSD negotiations team walked away from contract negotiations. The district has packed up and left the table. The district has decided that they are not willing to continue discussions. At this time, with six weeks of previously agreed upon meeting dates remaining, the district has chosen to put the fate of the Cleveland schools in the hands of a third party Fact Finder. The CTU leadership is committed to doing what they were elected to do, but the district is unwilling to do what they were hired to do.

CTU President David Quolke said, "Allowing a fact finder to make the decisions that impact learning conditions is not real leadership. The district needs to come back to the table to improve learning and working conditions for everyone. They should not be afraid to hear the truth about what is happening in the schools and have the tough discussions of what our members need in order to fix what's broken and create the best learning conditions possible for our kids."

CEUs FOR TRAINING MODULES

All CTU members completing the online training modules will receive 6 CEUs. Members do NOT have to complete any additional paperwork. Information on who has completed the training will be sent to the Office of Professional Development on or before April 1 to be processed. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Jillian Ahrens or Vicki Brian.

IPDP

IPDPs need to be written BEFORE you take classes for your license renewal. An IPDP should be written and approved as soon as you have your new license in hand. You DO NOT write a new IPDP when it is time to apply for a new license. If you have an approved IPDP that was written after your current license was issued, there is no need to write a new IPDP. When done correctly, the IPDP is written as soon as you get your new license and prior to taking any classes or PD that counts for CEUs and it is not written at the end when you are applying.

OVERAGES

Remember when submitting class size overages, ESP classes (PE, art, etc.) are considered as separate classes. Those overages are NOT based on the total students seen in a day. Please see page 36 (Article 10 Section 1) for details and grade level break downs. Overages are reported 8 times a year (each interim and report card period). Payment is made after the end of the school and must be mailed no later than July 15.

CTU Polos- Stylish and Affordable

CTU polo shirts are ready and available for purchase. Send your order form and payment to Wendi Kral at the CTU Office. After ordering, you will receive a confirmation email from Wendi Kral. Shirts can be picked up at the CTU office as soon as your order is received and processed. Represent in style at school! If you ordered a polo but would like to exchange it for a

different size, you may exchange unworn polos by contacting Wendi Kral via school mail at Wendi.Kral@clevelandmetroschools.org to make arrangements.

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.