



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
Issue 10 – September 29, 2014

NEW HIRE SALARY PLACEMENT

The Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) is still negotiating placement on the Cleveland Differentiated Compensation System (CDCS) salary schedule. While we believe we are close to resolution, most new hires have been placed at \$42,215. When final agreement has been reached and new hires have submitted proof of previous experience to Human Resources, new hires may be moved up on the schedule in accordance with previous experience. The adjustment will be retroactive to the first day on the job.

The grievance for New Hire Salary Placement from the 2013-14 school year is moving toward mediation/arbitration. Our first mediation date is set for the end of October.

If you have any questions regarding New Hire Salary placement for this year or last year, please contact Shari Obrenski via e-mail or at the CTU office (216) 861-7676 ext. 270.

FIRST BOOK FOR KIDS

A collection of 50 hand-picked titles that highlight Latino cultures and celebrate Hispanic heritage was delivered to the schools. Five hundred books were passed out in September designed to serve kids in kindergarten through sixth grade, the collection includes picture books (fiction and nonfiction), poetry, beginning readers, chapter books, and middle grade novels. This project was in conjunction with First Book, The American Federation of Teachers, and the Office of Multilingual Multicultural Education Office of CMSD. Books were delivered to schools and the PCIA's assisted with setting up distribution during Open House on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. Thank you to everyone who assisted in passing out books to the parents. Special thanks to Deb Paden who headed up this effort for the CTU and even delivered books all over town. The following schools received books: **Buhrer, Clark, International Newcomers at Thomas Jefferson, Joseph Gallagher, Luis Munoz Marin, Marion C. Seltzer, Scranton, Walton, Artemus Ward, and Riverside.**

AIMSWeb TRAINING

The district will be conducting AIMSWeb Training for K-3 regular and special education teachers (special ed. teachers that do Alternate Assess all of their students) October 16, 17, 18, and 20. An email was sent to teachers from Nicole Vitale. Teachers will be able to register for their preferred date via an online calendar. Look for the email that should be out soon. The 18th is a Saturday and teachers that choose to attend this session will be compensated. All other training is during the regular school day.

All special needs teachers will be trained on AIMSWeb, but K-3 teachers impacted by the 3rd Grade Guarantee are being given priority in this first round of training. The information from AIMSWeb will be a part of Reading Improvement Plans (RIMPs) that are required by state law. If you are in this priority group and did not receive an email from Nicole Vitale, please email her (Nicole.vitale@clevelandmetroschools.org).

Half of the day training will be on AIMSWeb and the other half will be to set up RIMPs. RIMPs will be done through SchoolNet. Yes teachers will walk out with training and having their RIMPs set up.

In case you are not familiar with AIMSWeb, it is a tool to provide progress monitoring for all students who are "off-track". This tool is an improvement for our teachers and students and will really help teachers easily keep the needed data ... The Third Grade Guarantee Committee believes that this will be a really beneficial tool. This tool was originally proposed to help Special Education teachers with their progress monitoring, but is so well-received that it is going to be utilized to aid more teachers and students.

OCTOBER 21 PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

CTU continues to get a number of inquiries regarding the October 21 Parent Teacher Conference Day. If you look at the District Calendar that was approved by the Board, the times assigned for the Conference Day are 12:30PM - 7:00PM or Based on Family Convenience. This also applies to the March 24 Conference Day. Michelle RR worked with the District to enable schools to be able to provide times that are good for families to

attend. There are schools that are conducting surveys of parents (surveys sent home with students, survey available at Open House, etc.) to help determine what time suits the parents of their school the best. If your school does not have a better time for conferences, then the conferences will be 12:30 – 7:00. Those will be the working hours for educators on that day.

3rd GRADE READING GUARANTEE

This week the ODE conducted a webinar with school districts across the state. The ODE let districts know that on the 2014-2015 Report Card there will be a Third Grade Reading Indicator. For the district to be Proficient on this Indicator 80% of third graders must score 400 on the OAA. Yes, 400. The OAA cut score for students to be considered proficient for the Third Grade Guarantee is 394. The state will also implement what is called a K-3 Literary Measure. The state will examine RIMP data over 2 years from Fall to Spring and Fall to Spring. They will examine the RIMPs over time to see if the students are showing growth, to see if interventions are actually being implemented, to learn which interventions are working, assess if the interventions chosen meet the needs of kids, and to see how well districts and schools are moving students forward.

ELECTIONS MATTER

Although media may be declaring that the race for Governor is over and are ready to anoint Kasich – it is NOT over. Kurt Richards wants everyone to know that every election matters and your vote does make a difference. The only way that this election is over is if you stay home and do not vote this election season. Democrats far out-number Republicans in Ohio.

Here is why you need to vote. Fitzgerald's opponent is Kasich – we all know the anti-teacher, anti-union, anti-middle class laws that Kasich has signed into law. There are great candidates that need to be elected up and down the ballot. Todd Leveck from Max Hayes is on the ballot running for State Representative in the 16th District (Rocky River, Fairview, Bay Village, Westlake) and his opponent voted for Senate Bill 5. Anthony Fossaceca is on the ballot running for State Representative in the 6th District (Independence, Moreland Hills, Seven Hills, Chagrin Falls, Walton Hills). Connie Pillich for Treasurer – this is the office that oversees our pensions. Lots and lots of great candidates that need to be elected.

A final reason why this race matters is Right to Work. Have you seen Speaker Batchelder's comments on Right to Work this week? He said it is coming.

Fitzgerald has said repeatedly and in writing that he WILL NOT sign any Right to Work legislation into law.

Your vote does matter. Get your friends and family to the polls.

PHONE BANKS & WALKS

Join your CTU brothers and sisters in helping this election season. October 4 anytime from 10:30 – 3:00PM. Just come to PJ McIntyres 17119 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland. Last Saturday our volunteers had conversations with over 500 potential voters. The data was positive. Your time matters.

Phone banks are open Monday – Thursday from 4:00-8:00 and the CTU Offices.

SCHOOL BOND ISSUE

Issue 4 - A Bond Issue for Cleveland Schools is on the ballot this November. If approved by the voters, Issue 4 will enable 20-22 new schools to be built and another 20+ to be revamped. Part of the money will also be used for maintenance. The state of Ohio pays \$2 for every \$1 from the city. THIS IS NOT A TAX INCREASE. As Duane Gibson, the President of Local 777 said last week (Local 777 are our custodian brothers and sisters) – This bond issue will not only pay for upgrading and building new schools, but also will be invested in maintenance – that keeps needed general fund money out of the boiler room and in the classroom. He also invited everyone to think of the bond issue this way – with the state paying \$2 for every \$1 that we invest it is like putting in a new driveway and have your neighbor pay for 2/3 of it. Love this analogy.