



# Cleveland Teachers Union

## News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### CMSD WALKS OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS

Shockingly, last Wednesday 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."

### 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, February 23 at John Marshall High School (3952 West 140th Street) 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.

### HEALTHSPAN OPEN ENROLLMENT

For employees that are currently enrolled in HealthSPAN, there is a special open enrollment from February 14 – February 29. This open enrollment is ONLY for those employees that are currently enrolled in HealthSpan. Here is part of an email that was sent to Chairs last week to be sent to all members: ***"This will provide members in HealthSpan the ability to remain***

***with HealthSpan or choose another health care provider. Medical Mutual of Ohio and Aetna are the other two insurance providers that are available to CMSD employees. A separate letter is being sent to members currently enrolled in HealthSpan that details more information specifically about the open enrollment. Open enrollment will be done online and information regarding HealthSpan, Medical Mutual, and Aetna will also be available online. A special link for this special Open Enrollment will be made available on the CMSD website. Anyone that does not take action during the Open Enrollment period will remain covered under HealthSpan. DQ"***

### HEALTHSPAN DOCTORS

If you are currently enrolled with HealthSpan and do not know what your doctor is intending to do after March 31, the CTU recommends that you contact your doctor today and ask if he/she will remain with HealthSpan and if so, where will he/she be located. Doctors are moving to Metro as well as facilities in Lorain, Akron, etc. You only have until February 29 if you intend to change health care providers.

### THANK YOU #CTU4FLINT

Thank you CTU members that made a monetary contribution to Flint. The Flint community is experiencing a tragedy which will significantly impact their students and teachers for many years. CTU has called for an action to support them. After reaching out to the United Teachers of Flint (UTF), it was decided that monetary contributions would be very helpful. CTU members donated generously. Thank you! CTU members drove to Flint on Valentine's Day to deliver the donation of \$2500 and meet with Flint teachers. #CTU4FLINT

### AMENDED HB 420

Good news was reported last week regarding HB 420. Gongwer (a top of the line source that follows all the actions of the Ohio Legislature) reported the following: "A controversial amendment accepted by the House Education Committee will be rescinded following outcries that it seeks to unfairly punish teachers for the testing opt-out movement. Committee Chairman Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) said he'll bring forward an amendment this week that would remove from a bill (HB 420) related to state report cards a provision that would penalize teachers who encourage students to not take state tests."

Thank you to the CTU members that took time to email their Legislators and the members of the Education Committee. It was hearing from CTU members and from teachers all across the state that created the outcry that led to this amendment being rescinded.

## **MARCH 1 DEADLINE FOR MODULES**

On Friday, February 12 staff members that still have all or some of their modules to take received a gentle reminder email that the modules need to be completed. The email had the link that one needs to get into the modules. Modules need to be completed by March 1. Your principal and UCC are to work out the schedule for allowing time to complete the modules.

## **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.

## **UNION ACTIVIST TRAINING**

The Cleveland Teachers Union is looking for CTU members interested in being trained as union activists during an 11 week course on Thursday evenings sponsored by the United Labor Agency. Topics include: Economic and political climate, voting, community, diversity, youth & elderly, etc. For more information contact Michelle Rzucidlo

[michelle.rzucidlo-rupright@clevelandmetroschools.org](mailto:michelle.rzucidlo-rupright@clevelandmetroschools.org)

## **STAFFING**

It is getting close to the time of the year when staffing is done for the 2016-2017 school year. 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. A timeline has NOT yet been agreed to. BEST Rubrics have been sent to principals to print and give to each teacher. Paraprofessionals DO NOT need to complete BEST Rubrics. 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. You do count this school year as a year of experience. BEST Rubrics are due back to principal with a copy to the Chair by February 3. This is to make sure this piece is completed prior to any staffing. BEST Rubrics were done in the fall and do need to be completed again. You are able to add another year of experience, new licenses may have been added, people have changed in the building, etc. BEST Rubrics are verified by Principal and Chair and then checked again by Human Resources.

## **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](mailto: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.