



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

September 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 2nd

OMTA TGIF HAPPY HOUR

October 3rd

OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

October 6th

OMTA SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

October 16th

CTA/OMTA TRAINING: ELA Common Core Instructional Strategies

October 21st

OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

October 27th

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Amy Johnson



I hope the first two months of school have treated you well. I thought it was important to get out to as many sites as possible at the beginning of the year to see how your year has started and how things are going. By the time you read this Advocate, I will have visited 13 sites for pizza. Of course I am hearing the same things at each site, teachers are feeling totally overwhelmed and are super busy planning for the common core. I want to make sure everyone understands and hears the same message: when you are planning your lessons for Language Arts you can use any and everything to help you teach the standards. You can use Houghton Mifflin (modified with current standards), RCD units, supplemental materials, your own created materials and a combination of everything. For Math it's a little more cut and dry; you can use RCD units or Eureka math as your core curriculum in addition to bringing in supplemental materials such as: Houghton Mifflin and other materials that help you teach the standards. I have received many questions about this and the district understands the need and the time you are putting in to find materials and they don't want to limit you on what is working for you. The most important thing is that you are teaching the Common Core Standards and using common assessments and collaborating with your grade level to monitor student progress.

I have had a lot of discussion with the district about paper. Paper always seems to be a big concern, but especially this year. I know you are using more paper and having to copy a lot

more than normal. Eureka Math uses a lot of paper; you are also finding Common Core materials to use with your classes. You will not be denied paper. Of course your site wants you to try to be as careful as possible with it and not just waste it; but if you run out of your allotment for paper and you need more, please just ask your administrator. You will not need to buy any of your own paper. In fact, you should not have to use your "supplemental" budget money for any basic consumable supplies. I hope you have enjoyed the increase in your supply budget and that you have found it easier to get basic supplies from your site. We hope this helps minimize your out-of-pocket expenses.

As you know, on the OMSD calendar there are "buy back days," now known as non-school days, on November 10th and December 19th. The



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OMSD SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

By: Tracy Taylor

At the August 25th Rep Council meeting, the PAC interview panel discussed with reps the process for getting endorsement recommendations and the interviews held with OMSD School Board candidates. The reps asked many questions and, after 45 minutes of discussion, voted to endorse the incumbents, Sam Crowe, Kris Brake and Elvia Rivas, for our full-term School Board seats. For the short term seat (vacated last spring by former Board member Steve Garcia) Rep Council voted to endorse Alfonso Sanchez. It will be very important for teachers and the community for the OMTA-endorsed candidates to be elected. Our District has worked fairly smoothly in recent years because the current Board members have been supportive of teachers and have worked in good faith with our members to make OMSD a positive place to teach and learn. They have listened to our concerns and respected our input on LCFF/LCAP and CC implementation. We have not been confronted with the issues of merit pay and evaluations based on student test scores as some districts have. We don't all agree on all issues that have come to our attention in the last few years, but even on controversial issues, we have been asked for our opinions



and have given input. We cannot look at any one issue in solitude; we must look at the School District as a whole. There are 13 candidates for the 4 seats that will be on the ballot. After meeting with CTA's political organizer, we have decided to support our candidates by sending out a number of mailers to targeted voters. This election is expected to have a very low turnout so it is important that we target certain voters. We will be asking you for help with filling out personal messages to voters on a post card; this is a powerful tool to get voters to vote for our endorsed candidates. Your reps will be asking you to join them in a post card party at your site. We will be giving away raffle tickets to award gift cards to those who help out; 1 raffle ticket for every 25 post cards. If you write messages on 100 post cards you will be entered to win an airline ticket! And, of course, if you live in the District, be sure to VOTE and talk to your friends and neighbors about who the teachers want for School Board. Please help us help the OMTA-endorsed candidates win their elections to Ontario-Montclair School District Governing Board. 🍏

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

The district over the last few months has hired a great deal of substitute teachers. These subs work in many districts in the area and most school districts are still "short" on subs. The sooner you can put in your job the better. All sites in the district are having planning days with an occasional district training during school time. If you can avoid planning days on Mondays and Fridays, the biggest days for subs, you are more likely to get your sub. Please see the following contract language if a sub does not show up. The last step would be to not have a teacher attend their training/planning day.

Article VIII: HOURS OF WORK

F. Period Substitute Pay

Each site will develop a plan when a substitute teacher is not available. The plan will include the following procedures for coverage for the affected classroom(s):

For Middle Schools: The administrator will first ask for volunteers. If no one volunteers for a particular period the administrator may assign unit members, provided that such assignment is done in an equitable manner from among all available unit members.

For Elementary Schools: The administrator will first make sure that assignments are equitably distributed among available non-

classroom, certificated staff and that no unit member shall be required to provide substitute coverage for more than six (6) hours in one week.

In the event that non-classroom, certificated staff is unavailable, the administrator shall divide students among other classrooms in a fashion that will have the least impact on the instructional program. However, no unit member should have more than eight (8) additional students assigned to their class at any one time.

Compensation:

Unit members who provide substitute coverage shall be compensated as follows:

Middle School: Unit members shall be paid at 1/5 of the substitute daily rate for each period of coverage they provided.

Elementary: Unit members shall be compensated at the substitute daily rate, divided by the number of unit members who provided coverage. If the coverage is for less than a full school day, the amount shall be pro-rated. 🍏

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term buy-back day developed many years ago when the state was funding professional development days at teacher's per diem rate. Unfortunately state funding for such training disappeared, which is why we haven't participated in buy-back days for many years. When OMTA meets with the district each year to set the calendar we fight to keep them on the calendar just in case there is money in the future. We placed the days strategically where you would benefit from an extended vacation. Now that districts are being funded by

LCFF monies, there is money to do training on those days. Most of your sites will be offering a *voluntary* professional development or planning day for teachers on December 19th, paid at the workshop rate which is \$ 37.10 an hour. This money will be put on your February 1st paycheck. Remember, these days are completely voluntary and there is no pressure to attend. The calendar committee will look at where these "non-student days" will be put next year so it will be more convenient for you to attend these types of days. 🍏

WHY SHOULD WE VOTE? AND, WHY SHOULD WE VOTE TORLAKSON?

By: Tracy Taylor

This November we have what is referred to as a 'low voter turnout election'. When the office of the President is not on the ballot, fewer people vote. The issues on the ballot this November are not especially controversial. When this happens, many become complacent about those voting rights for which some fought so hard for us to have. Also, when fewer people vote, elections are decided by a small percentage of our citizens. Does that matter?

Of course it does. This November we need to re-elect State Superintendent Tom Torlakson.

With all the attention Public Education has been getting in recent years, you'd think more people would be interested in who serves as the Superintendent of our schools. But, sadly, most people seem not to be. Lately, people have been eager to tell us what is 'wrong' with public schools, and some self-proclaimed reformers have been even more eager to tell how to fix those perceived wrongs. But most of them have never worked in a school. They have not taught in a room with 30+ students on a daily basis, motivating all 30 of them to reach their potential. We have. So we are going to vote, right?

Hopefully. But it's likely not as many of us will vote as we hope. What happens if we don't vote? The world won't end. But things could change, and not in a good way, for children and their teachers in public schools here in the Golden State. We have an opportunity to re-elect Tom Torlakson. Or, we could allow someone else to elect the other guy.

Tom Torlakson has been State Superintendent of Public Instruction for four years. He began his career as a high school science teacher. He has worked in the state legislature and now serves our schools as Superintendent. Torlakson is the person who, along with our state's legislature, stood up to US Secretary of

Education Arne Duncan and chose how and when to use the testing that accompanies the CCSS. Torlakson has invited classroom teachers to help in decision-making in our schools. He supports our profession and has been working to assure teachers receive the respect they deserve and schools are funded properly. LCFF is complicated, but it is an effort to fund those schools in the most need. When has that ever happened in our lifetime?

The other person who seeks to become Superintendent, has never served as a teacher in public schools. Marshall Tuck studied business in college and was a banker before he was named head of a group of charter schools in LA. He believes experienced teachers do not need permanent status. He may sincerely think he knows what's best for our children. But how can someone who has never worked in a classroom, never created lessons that must reach and motivate students of all ability levels, and never had to conduct a parent conference really know how to do any of those things? Why should someone who doesn't know how to do our job get to tell us how to do our job? And he doesn't want to become a teacher; he wants to become Superintendent of all our schools. And he wants to take away our due process.

We should vote, because it does matter. It matters to the kids we work with. It matters to all the teachers in this state and the professional status of our careers. If every teacher in this state, all nearly 300,000 of us, went to the polls, and took our families on November 4th (or voted by mail from the convenience of our own living rooms) Torlakson would be re-elected.

We need Tom Torlakson. Tom needs us. We need each other. Please vote on November 4th. 🍏

DID YOU KNOW. . .

If you have worked in the district for 15 years or longer, you will see a longevity amount on your paycheck. Each anniversary step that you are on gets you an additional \$898.00 per year. As we negotiate raises, the amount of the longevity benefit will also increase. You will see the longevity amount on a separate line on your paycheck. Always check your paycheck stub to make sure you are being paid the correct amount for what step you are on. You can find an updated salary schedule on your site's OMTA bulletin board or on our website at www.myomta.org. Remember, the county is no longer issuing paycheck stubs to those who use direct deposit. You have to get your paycheck stubs on line now through Best Net. If you need information on how to log onto Best Net to create an account, please call the payroll department at the district office; they can assist you. 🍏



OMTA COMMON CORE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY



October 21st

Time: 3:30-5:00

Location: OMTA office

Look out for the flyer in your email and on your OMTA bulletin board about this training opportunity. We will have one of CTA's best trainers to talk about the common core and strategies for Language Arts.

Please RSVP by

Friday, October 17th

either at officemanager@myomta.org

or 909-986-2414

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

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2nd Vice President: Daniel Salcido

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Buena Vista: Michael Hatter

Central: Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara

Corona: Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie

DeAnza: Jarred Shell

Del Norte: Tisha Curry, Amanda Howser

Edison: Janna Southworth

El Camino: Vacant

Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Roxanne Hernandez

Euclid: Wendy Beltran/Anna Young

Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Dale Johnson

Haynes: Robert Mariani, Leslie Miller

Howard: Kelly Pawley

Kingsley: Allison Borromeo, Linda Bell

Lehigh: Demecia DeVita, Richard Howard

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Mariposa: Lindsay Gallagher, Rosa Ronquillo

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Monte Vista: Kay Hoover, Tonya Scott

Montera: Erine Ames, Kelly Cook

Moreno: John Ross

Oaks: Lora Dahms, Vickie Harri

Ramona: Trudy Cowan

Serrano: Dalia Aref, Brad Holtan

Sultana: Terri Caldwell, Bertha B. Fitzgerald

Vernon: Isabel Santos, Diana Verdugo

Vina Danks: Sally Stewart

Vineyard: John Borrowman, Nila Delise

Vista Grande: Helen Cieslik/Monica Lite

Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren

Music/PE/APE: Daniel Salcido

Speech: Susan Yee

Health/Nurse: Marissa Sitz

Early Ed/Pre-School: Leticia Martinez

HFB/Hardy Center: Olivia Craig