



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

September 2018

IMPORTANT DATES OCTOBER

4th OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

8th NON-SCHOOL DAY

13th SCONE WELCOME BACK PICNIC

15th OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

18th OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

29th OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As teachers in the Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association, we place students at the center of everything we do. We strive to make sure students have the opportunities and resources they need to be successful. We have highly-qualified, committed, and caring teachers in every classroom, in every school of the Ontario-Montclair School District.

Our students come and go every year. Every year, Kindergartners come new to our district, and eighth graders matriculate to high school. It is our teachers who remain the constant. How do we insure this consistency and quality year after year? It is done by valuing our teachers.

We value teachers by asking for their input. Teachers should always be considered to give their valued opinion for every adoption, every program and/or strategy brought into this district. Who knows our students better than anyone besides their parents? Teachers do. Teachers know the strengths and the learning modalities of their students better than anyone. Teachers know what will work to address the learning needs of those students, as well as know what will hinder the learning process. Teachers also know full well the impact of assessments on their students.

We value teachers by allowing them time to implement programs and strategies brought into the district to facilitate instruction. We value teachers by being patient with them while learning, and mastering the many new strategies and systems purchased by Ontario-Montclair School District.

We value teachers by supporting teachers. We value teachers by following contract. We value teachers when it comes to teacher-to-student ratios in both general education classrooms, and special education classrooms. We value teachers when we place, and have correctly assigned aides to assist those students with learning needs. We value teachers when we have classes that are carefully constructed so that all learners' needs are met, so there are minimal disruptions to the learning process. We value teachers when they ask for assistance from school administration with a specific student. We value teachers when we understand that asking for assistance is absolutely the last thing a teacher wants to do.

We value our teachers by honoring their time. Teachers spend a great deal of time participating in staff meetings, staff developments, IEP meetings and PLCs, etc. Teachers spend a great deal of time in meetings after contract hours. Teachers also spend their time attending back-to-school night, parent conferences, as well as other special events dictated by their respective school sites. Teachers also spend a great deal of time taking their students' work home to read, grade, and assess, as well as to write IEPs and to input grades.



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We value teachers by compensating them for their time in and out of the classroom invested in assuring that every student's academic and socio-emotional needs are being met. We value teachers by compensating them for the time they spend after hours in the classroom creating and maintaining a positive and engaging classroom environment. We also value teachers by compensating them for attending after-hours school and district activities that interfere, and sometimes impede their own family's time. We value teachers by providing affordable and adequate medical care for themselves and their families. We do all this so that teachers can focus on their students and not worry about making ends meet at home.

We value teachers by making sure their classrooms are up-to-date, clean, and maintained on a regular basis. We value teachers by

making sure their classrooms are safe from all types of intruders: from mold, and vermin, and to those who would unfortunately want to inflict ill-will on us and our students. We value teachers when they observe a health issue, and trust their judgment without harboring resentment.

We value teachers by thanking them not only during Teacher Appreciation Week. We value teachers by knowing they are not perfect, that they can have bad days, that they make mistakes, and knowing that teachers are their own worst critics. We value teachers by acknowledging them and thanking them for the work they do every single day.

Together We Are Stronger,
John Egan, OMTA President 

BOARD ELECTION INFO & VOLUNTEERS 2018

As we approach the November mid-terms, which are in high-prominence right now nationally, we cannot neglect to mention our local school board races, which can impact what we do in the classroom. If we do not choose school board candidates with prior school board experience, and also the willingness to work with those who matter most when it comes to education (teachers), it can impact the learning of the ones we care about the most (students).

The candidates that Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association is endorsing are: Kris Brake, Trustee Area 3; Sonia Alvarado, Trustee Area 5, and incumbent Elvia Rivas in Trustee Area 2. Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association's Political Action Committee interviewed these candidates and felt that they have the best interests of our students at heart, and that they also know that supporting teachers is a pivotal way of doing that.

OMTA's Executive Board believes that this is a very important local election. With the advent of the Trustee Areas, only those families and

individuals living in those respective Trustee Areas get to vote, which drastically reduces the number of votes to elect that board candidate. Seeing that there are three candidates running in both Trustee Areas 3 and 5, and that mid-term elections are notorious for low voter turn-out, it's safe to say that every vote will matter.

So, as this political season slowly starts to build up steam, OMTA will be seeking volunteers to help with post-card writing, walking precincts, possibility of drive-way endorsements, etc. There will be food and refreshment to keep your energy up, as well as incentives and raffles to compensate for your time. This is also a great way to meet colleagues and advocate what we do for our community. Please consider volunteering. If you need further information and/or have questions, please call the OMTA office: (909)986-2414 or email: president@myomta.org 

WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS ARE YOU DOING IN CLASS?

I would like to initiate something new this year. I would like to visit classrooms, so I can see all the wonderful things that are being taught and accomplished by all your students. If you are comfortable with a visitor and there is something you are excited about that your class is doing, being academic or elective, I would enjoy seeing it! My goal is not to stay long and/or disrupt your teaching; it's simply to pass along the good word to others. If you're interested in having me as a visitor, drop me a line; give me a call with at least three dates & times. And most important, notify your administrator that I'm coming.

Thanks, John Egan • president@myomta.org • 909-986-2414

P. S. I'll bring a little something for your students



ERROR CORRECTION

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Dear OMTA Bargaining Unit Members, This is the correct language re: Site Level and Staff Development Meetings. I apologize to any and all teachers, as well as administrators for any confusion this may have caused.

This MOU, which is part of the contract until June 30, 2019, but was not in the physical contract printed by OMSD contextually, is the language that should have been in the Advocate you received on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 re: Site Level and Staff Development Meetings.

Respectfully, John Egan, OMTA President

ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ontario, California

October 8, 2015

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SITE LEVEL AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

The following is hereby agreed and understood by and between the Ontario-Montclair School District and the Ontario-Montclair Teacher's Association for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019:

Article VIII: D. Site Level and Staff Development Meetings:

Prior to the start of the academic school year, as well as throughout the year, the site administrator shall consult with the staff regarding the content of professional development.

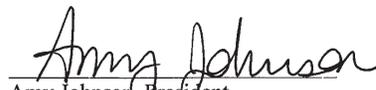
Site level meetings shall occur on early-release Tuesdays, the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Meetings shall not exceed two hours in duration. In general, meetings shall begin no more than 20 minutes after student release time. The content of the meetings may include, but is not limited to, site information, professional development, grade level or departmental collaboration. Under special circumstances, the calendar for meetings can be altered with the approval of the District and the Association.

Additional meetings (e.g. committee meetings, SST meetings, IEP meetings) extending beyond the normal minimum school-based assignment hours shall not require more than two (2) hours of unit member attendance in any calendar month, exclusive of the Tuesday site level meetings.

The terms of this MOU will be terminated in the event that budgetary restrictions cause the end of additional preparation time, as outlined in the Additional Preparation Period - Elementary MOU.

This MOU is non-precedent setting. The terms and conditions of this agreement apply for the 2016-2019 school years. All other issues related to Article VIII will be governed by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the District and OMTA.


Hector Macias
Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources


Amy Johnson, President
Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

11-20-2015
Date

11-19-2015
Date

Please know that on myomta.org, there are many other Memorandums of Understanding that might be of interest to you and that define your role as a teacher in the Ontario-Montclair School District. We are currently working on updating the myomta web page so that it has the current contract that is presently on the district web site.

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

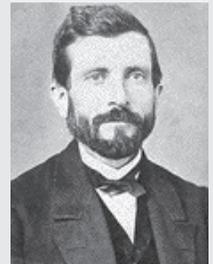
As we enter another election cycle which will play a prominent role nationally, as well as locally, it is important for many of us that we pay attention to things political that impact our livelihood. However, we as teachers need to stay vigilant with restraining our thoughts and opinions, especially when dealing with students and parents. For many of us, our communities look to us regarding on how to vote this time of year regarding topics that affect education, our students, and our school boards. I think it's an important reminder that not everyone wants our advice, nor should we be free to give it.

I bring this topic up because as teachers, we know many of our students are affected by their parents' and siblings' opinions, and also what they view on television, social media, et al. Students can be very free with their developing beliefs in and outside of the classroom. They may even be looking for guidance from you, or from your colleagues to better understand certain candidates and their views, right or wrong.

This is just a reminder, that as public school teachers, we do not have academic freedom when it comes to the classroom. We have no language in our collective bargaining agreement that allows us to do so. In general, we teachers do not have academic freedom to discuss political views in the classroom unless it is within the scope of the course material, even then we need to try and remain neutral. While we may have freedom of speech rights, we don't have freedom from consequences of that speech, and that while it may seem unfair, remember teachers are held to a higher standard of what we can and can't say at work. 🍏

DID YOU KNOW

In 1863, John Swett, who was at that time the California Superintendent of Public Instruction called for a "teachers' institute", where approximately 100 teachers gathered in San Francisco, forming the California Educational Society. The organization changed their name to the California Teachers Association in 1875. Today, more than 325,000 public school teachers, counselors, psychologists, librarians, other non-supervisory certificated personnel, and Education Support Professionals are represented by CTA.



OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President: John Egan
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1st Vice President: Tracy Taylor
2nd Vice President: Daniel Salcido
Secretary: Tisha Curry
Treasurer: Erine Ames

CTA State Council Representatives
Tracy Taylor, John Egan, MaryKay Scheid
Service Center 1 Representatives
Shari Megaw, Vickie Harri, Trudy Cowan,
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Bon View: Abel De Casas, Debbie Roose Baker
Buena Vista: Michael Hatter
Central: Marina Garcia
Corona: Julie Rafeedie
DeAnza: Inaki Bizkarra
Del Norte: Natalie Cantos/Mary Braunstein
Edison: Rayvelyn Swift
El Camino: Susie Imrich/Sandi Missick
Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Dennis Kelly
Euclid: Wendy Beltran, Kelly Duffy
Hawthorne: Monique Gray, Celina Marshall
Haynes: Robert Mariani, Cecil Malacarne

Howard: Kelly Pawley
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Vineyard: Nila Delise
Vista Grande: Monica Lite
Wiltsey: Kim Hunter, Brad Joplin
Counselors/Orcs: Deana Shoultz
Early Ed/Pre-School: Alison Guadalupe
HFB/Hardy Center: Laura Smart
Health/Nurse: Dana Smith
Music: Daniel Salcido
PE/APE: Daryl Durston
Special Ed: Aurora Mejico
Speech: Ulla Tang Larsen