

ADVOCATE

ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

417 West "E" Street, Ontario, CA 91762

December 2018



A SPECIAL ONE PAGE EDITION

SEASON'S GREETINGS from The President's Desk



Teachers on Assignment

I want to talk about the Teachers-on- Assignment. This is a growing concern for many; particularly for those who take on this job of trying to provide more information and guidance for those who are in the classroom. For some, there is a misinterpretation of the role, or purpose, of a Teacher-on-Assignment, or TOA. Some believe that the TOA is the ears and eyes of the school administration. Some believe that the TOA is administration. Clearly, some TOAs are going to work closely with site administration. TOAs also might have a close friendship with a site administrator. It's been known to happen that we develop close ties to one another when working in the same field, in which we share common values whether it's in education, sporting events, food, etc.

However, TOAs are not administrators. TOAs are bargaining unit members just like you and me. They pay dues and are entitled to be treated like fellow educators. Recently, Erine Ames, OMTA Treasurer, and I visited with the TOAs to listen to their concerns. And quite honestly, I did offer them the opportunity to write this piece for the Advocate, but they chose not to, as they wrote an article last year. So, I took it upon myself to write this piece, because what they shared with me, concerned me.

TOAs are tasked with creating and developing lessons that are to inform and help you as an educator with some of the practices and programs initiated by Ontario-Montclair School District. I can't imagine a more challenging job than this. Some of you are asked to leave your classroom for a day, or two, and glean some information provided by TOAs that you can take back to your classroom and utilize. Sometimes it's after school, when you're maybe not in the best of places to want to hear this information for a variety of reasons.

What I'm asking, is that some of us please try and empathize with our TOA brothers and sisters. They are doing the best they can to try and accommodate both the district's needs as well as yours. I'm not asking you to like the information presented; I understand, because I've been there too, and sometimes what I saw and/or heard was not resonant to my situation. Sometimes it is, though. The TOAs I spoke with mentioned that the comments provided on the feedback sheets are not always professional, and often bring with them derogatory comments, as well as personal insults. I understand we, as professionals, will always have our differences re: pedagogical practice, delivery of instruction, engagement strategies, etc. However, please remember we must always try to be professional when we disagree; have differing opinions.

Also, with that being said, we may need to look even further at the post -professional development evaluations contractually, as you, as educators, should not be formally evaluating a fellow bargaining unit member, but only the content of what was delivered. And as stated before, that should be done through a professional lens.

With the political and social climate as divisive as it is currently, we need to remind ourselves to practice more patience and understanding with each other for the betterment of our students. I appreciate each and everyone of you, and the gifts you bring to our students on a daily basis. I wish each and every one of you a blessed and magical holiday season!

~ John Egan

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all of our schools who have gone above and beyond by donating food to provide for those families in need this time of year. I know many of you do more than this, by also giving time at shelters and/or food banks, or contributing to toy drives, etc.

You are what makes OMSD so special!

CALENDAR



January 7th - Return from Winter Break

January 10th - OMSD Board Meeting
7:00 pm
Chino Basin Water
Conservation District

January 14th - OMTA Executive Board Mtg.
3:45 pm OMTA Office

January 28th - OMTA Rep Council Mtg.
3:45 pm OMTA Office