



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

January 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 3rd

OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

February 6th

February 20th

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY – NO SCHOOL

February 14th

PRESIDENT'S DAY – NO SCHOOL

February 17th

OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

February 24th

CTA/OMTA TRAINING: More Month than Money

February 25th

www.myomta.org



Affiliated with



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Amy Johnson



Happy New Year and 2014! I hope you had a wonderful time celebrating the holidays and had a great, relaxing vacation. Half the year is over... just one half more to go. My New Year's Resolution for the rest of the school year is to support you in teaching what you feel is right for your students, not "The Test." I hope you don't feel you must get students ready to start sprinting their way to April. Not having an official state test should take some of the pressure off of us! I know there are still a lot of unknowns and stresses that you're feeling with regards to the new Common Core Standards. As I've gotten together with colleagues from all over the country, I am finding we all have so much more in common with this feeling of unknowns and frustrations in our profession. We are all in it together --from California to Rhode Island.

After a great deal of conversation with the district for the last few months about what teachers need to be successful with the common core, they have responded by working to get us trained. I know when many of us hear about a new training, we sigh and think what a waste of time. I hope you give this training a chance. The district is partnering with a company called The Common Core Institute to provide differentiated staff development driven by the needs at each school site. The professional development will provide a deeper understanding of the standards, depth of knowledge (DOK), and rigor. A plus is that we will be provided with tools for lesson planning and unit development to complement RCD, IB and site specific initiatives. If you have not heard about the professional development plan yet from your administrator, you should be getting that information very soon. Sites will be starting in different phases working with the district directors. The trainings will be site based. Each site will determine their structure: Tuesday or Wednesday site meeting days (not to go over contract time), release days, etc. The trainings will be site specific to fit your school's needs. It is more important now than ever to have great communication with your administrator and leadership team about your common core needs. I believe this is a step in the right direction, since we haven't received any quality training on the common core and will be expected to start full implementation next year. Remember, the district had money given to them from the state to spend on professional development.

California is still working on the English Language Arts and English Language Development Frameworks. Textbooks cannot be developed until the Frameworks are finished. The purpose of the Frameworks is to serve as a resource for teachers and other educators as you implement the new CCSS. The California Department of Education is asking for your feedback on the first draft for

Continued on Page 2

ELA/ELD. Public comments will be presented to the Instructional Quality Commission in the Spring of 2014 for review. We have CTA representation on this committee, so I know the comments are taken very seriously and reviewed by all. You can access the Frameworks on the CDE Public Review and Comment on the ELA/ELD Framework web page (cde.ca.gov).

As you know, at the end of November the 2013-2016 Master Contract was ratified. There were 941 total ballots (13 illegal/blank ballots) with a total of 928 legal ballots. There were 795 votes to ratify and 133 votes not to ratify. There were 465 votes needed to ratify the contract. Thank you for such a high turn-out to vote! So now you ask, When do I see my money? You will see the 5% retro money back to July 1st on your February 1st paycheck and the ongoing 5% from your February paycheck on. The second 5% that was ratified in the contract agreement will show up on your September 1st, 2014 paycheck, which starts the new school year. The increase in 15 minutes in your school day will also start next school year. Your sites should start having

discussions about where you would like to put this 15 minutes: before school, after school, or a combination of both. The choice of where it goes is to be a collaborative discussion with the whole staff, not just the site administrator or leadership teams. I've heard some sites talk about doing a survey to get everyone's opinion. Some sites with high bussing needs will need to take transportation into consideration when changing start or end time. Kindergarten teachers, I have been asking some kinder teachers for input on how to help with the 15 minutes for you and have been working on some different strategies to help with your start and end times. I will be getting back to you in February with a meeting or a possible solution.

On a personal note, I got married in November and have changed my name to Amy Johnson. My new email address is amy.johnson@omds.net. My old email will still be up and running for a while in case you forget! You can also reach me anytime at president@myomta.org.



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS (NCUEA)

Tracy Lee Taylor ~

Teacher representatives from urban school districts all over the country attended this conference to discuss issues being faced in the current politicization of education. Over the course of the three days, I heard stories of the hardships teachers from all around the country are facing daily in their efforts to teach effectively. In each session teachers expressed the frustration of not having enough input into or power over the teaching expectations for their classrooms.

The sessions Tracy attended focused on identifying what professional issues matter most to teachers. The themes that were repeated throughout the weekend included Teacher Evaluation and job security, Common Core implementation and assessment, and Professional Development that would ready schools for the Common Core requirements.

The solution that was brought up in each and every discussion was to allow teachers more input into standards and how to teach them. The idea that non-educators were promoting 'reform' agendas was dismissed as destructive to our children's futures. Organizing our profession to take the lead in what parts of public education need reform and how and when to use assessment were seen as key to the future of public schools throughout the country.

Though I knew it before, one thing I came away with was how happy I am to be living and teaching in California. Educators in CA certainly have our share of political issues, but for the most part, our Legislature and Governor are supportive of our profession and the fact that we are the experts on what needs to happen in our classrooms. Especially as we begin to adopt Common Core Standards, lessons and assessment tools, the expert voices of our teachers need to be heard.

Daniel Salcido ~

The NCUEA is always one of my favorite conferences to attend. They offer so many interesting workshops that give great strategies that I can apply right now and share with our members.

This year I attended several workshops during the three day conference that included; Engaging and Organizing around Professional Issues where they session offered Tools and Strategies in order to improve professional effectiveness when engaging and organizing union members.

Another workshop I enjoyed was the Bargaining Trends: Affordable Care Act, Common Core and Teacher Evaluation presentation where we worked with NEA experts to explore national trends and

THE 2014-2015 PROPOSED STATE BUDGET

By: Amy Johnson

The way the state budget works is that the Governor sends out a state budget proposal in January. Then in May, once the legislature has seen how the state is doing financially, they do a May revise to the budget. In the past, the May revises were very different than the January proposals because of the economy. The economy has improved and Prop 30 directs more funds into education, so the May revise shouldn't be much different than the January proposal. The budget is officially adopted in June. Governor Brown released the January 2014-2015 state budget proposal on January 9th. This is the second budget period since Prop 30's passing that funding cuts for schools were NOT proposed. The state has a surplus that was made possible by all of your hard work helping us pass Proposition 30; thank you again. CTA is working on analyzing the budget to the fullest, but in the meantime CTA has sent local presidents highlights of the budget. I will have more information about what the state budget means for OMSD once we get more details in the upcoming weeks, but know that it will be positive for teachers and students!

Governor Brown proposed \$10 billion in new funding for K-12 schools and community colleges, which includes \$6 billion to eliminate all deferral payments to local school districts and colleges, as well \$244 million for CSU and UC systems of higher education. (Deferral payments refer to monies allocated for a certain period of time but not paid until much later. For some districts, this resulted in having to borrow money, which they would then have to repay with interest, to make payroll. Because of our sizable reserve, deferrals did not cause this problem in OMSD.) This is definitely a welcome change from the deficits of our recent past. With all of this new state budget information coming out, the newest Education Week survey of education funding finds that California has hit 50th among the states in per-pupil funding, a key measure of financial commitment to public schools. According to the report, California fell from 49th to 50th in per-student funding in the 2010-11 school year. According to the report, California spends \$3,500 less per student than the national average and \$11,000 less per child than the top ranked state of Wyoming. To the right are some of the short, easy to read highlights of the proposed state budget.



K-12 Budget Adjustments

- ✓ An increase of \$5.5 billion to eliminate **all** remaining outstanding deferral debt for K-12.
- ✓ An increase of \$4.5 billion in the Local Control Funding Formula. For the 2014-15 budget year, this equates to a 10.9 percent increase in additional growth. The Governor proposes to introduce legislation to create a continuous appropriation for Local Control Funding Formula funding, ensuring that the formula continues to be implemented on schedule in future years.
- ✓ An increase of \$25.9 million for the County Office of Education Local Control Funding Formula. This fully funds their LCFF.
- ✓ An increase of \$74.3 million to support projected charter school growth.
- ✓ An increase of \$33.3 million to support a 0.86 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for categorical programs that remain outside of the new student formula, including Special Education, Child Nutrition, American Indian Education Centers and the American Indian Early Childhood Education Program.
COLA increases for school districts and County Offices of Education are provided within the increases of the LCFF.
- ✓ A decrease of \$2.2 million to reflect a decline in Special Education ADA.
- ✓ A decrease of \$214.5 million in 2013-14 for school district and County Office of Education local control funding formulas as a decrease in projected ADA from the 2013 Budget Act and a decrease of \$42.9 million for 2014-15 for a projected decline in ADA.
- ✓ An increase of \$188.1 million in one-time Proposition 98 revenues for the Emergency Repair Program.
- ✓ An increase of \$46.5 million to implement a revised student assessment system aligned to the new state standards.



talked about some innovated approaches to address the issues associated with each of those areas. I liked this session because it too gave me a several real world strategies to share with our members. Dale Templeton and Joel Solomon of the NEA Collective Bargaining Departments were the key presenters in this very informative workshop.

My absolute favorite session was with Ken Zarifis, President of Education Austin (Austin's Local). We discussed Union Led Reform through Three key areas; a strong partnership between the school and the students' family; an investment in increasing the skills and effectiveness of the school staff; and community provided social and health services for students and their families. After this session, the entire conference body loaded school buses and went to the Texas State Capital in order to peacefully protest against the excessive volume of standardized testing and hear many heart felt presentations from the front steps of the Capital Building. This experience was very uplifting as I felt it gave me a great sense of what other educators all over the United States have to do in order to let our government understand that Educators know what is best for students. We as educators need to be the most significant part of the whole Education Reform effort.



SEE'S CANDY

The OMTA office has See's Gift Certificates year round.
The certificates cost \$14.00* each and can be redeemed for One Pound of Candy in a standard See's box or Equivalent Dollar Value of One Pound of See's Candy (currently a \$18.00 value*).

Come by our office today!

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

417 West "E" Street • Ontario, CA 91762

Phone: 909 986-2414

**Office Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday-Friday
(excluding non-student days)**

**BE PREPARED FOR
VALENTINES'S DAY!**

**See's Candies are a great gift
for someone you love
(or even yourself).**



* Prices and value may change without notice

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President/State Council Rep: Amy Johnson
President@myomta.org

1st Vice President: Brad Richards

2nd Vice President: Daniel Salcido

Secretary: Susan Yee

Treasurer: MaryKay Scheid

CTA State Council Representatives
Cindy Lopez Elwell, Tracy Taylor, Amy Johnson

Service Center 1 Representatives
MaryKay Scheid, Shari Megaw, Tisha Curry,
Bruce Sarver, John Egan

Bargaining Chair: Shari Megaw

Elections Chair: Erine Ames

Past President: Rick McClure

Office Manager: Cindy Newey
officemanager@myomta.org

Advocate Design: Dorreen Petersen Davis

Advocate Editor: MaryKay Scheid

OMTA Office

417 West "E" Street • Ontario, CA 91762

Tel: (909) 986-2414 • Fax: (909) 983-0585

OMTA REPRESENTATIVES

Arroyo: Karen Hirschfeld

Berlyn: Crystal Cook, Erik Kobulnick

Bon View: Wayne Bradley, Nancy Mason

Buena Vista: Michael Hatter

Central: Tina Foglesong, Marina Garcia-Guevara

Corona: Paul Leal, Julie Rafeedie

DeAnza: Loretta Parker

Del Norte: Tisha Curry, Cecilia Anneccchini

Edison: Janna Southworth

El Camino: Vacant

Elderberry: Kevin Dixon, Renita 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 Rios, Richard Howard

Lincoln: Crystal Cuaudia/Kellie Wilson, Denise Dryden

Mariposa: Sendai Parker, Jeff Williams

Mission: Debby Hilak, Vince DeFabiis

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

Wiltsey: Ken Aven, Linda Boren

Music/PE/APE: Daniel Salcido

Speech: Kimberly Cieslik

Health/Nurse: Marissa Sitz

Early Ed/Pre-School: Leticia Martinez