



ADVOCATE

Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

February 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 2nd

OMSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

March 5th

SPRING BREAK

No School

March 23rd – 27th

OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

March 30th

CTA/OMTA TRAINING A Training about Child Abuse

March 31st

www.myomta.org



Affiliated with



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Amy Johnson



Thank you to those who voted on our contract ratification in January. We had wonderful voter turn-out in the past year for our elections. We had 908 total ballots tuned in (10 illegal and 1 blank). The contract was ratified with 873 “yes” votes and 24 “no” votes, a 97% passing rate. It is very important that members are engaged in the association and what goes on. Remember, in order to vote you must be a member of the association. If you did not get a ballot, you may not be a member. Please email me and I can look into this for you. In working with the district, we are hoping to see retro checks on the April 1st paycheck as well as the raise reflected. If this changes, I will notify you. Now that we have ratified the contract, it goes to the school board for a vote at their meeting on February 19th.

Now that we have finished negotiating for the 2014-2015 school year, we are preparing to start the process for the 2015-2016 school year. Our first step in this process is to send out a bargaining survey. This was done from January 22nd to the 29th. We had 262 responses to the survey. The executive board and bargaining team read every single comment made. Reflecting upon the survey results, the executive board identified the official reopeners that we will bring to the bargaining table. We are able to bring forth 2 articles from the contract in addition to salary/benefits, and class size, which are automatic reopeners each year. The district will also bring 2 articles they would like to talk about. We will begin bargaining in March and will keep you posted with Bargaining Advisories.

Some reoccurring themes on the bargaining survey were concerns about materials/curriculum, common core trainings, and planning/prep time. Some of these things can be bargained and some cannot. The items that are not bargainable at the table will be addressed with the district. I meet weekly with the district and have been sharing many concerns I am hearing as I visit sites. One of the biggest concerns is materials/curriculum and the time you are spending finding materials. Please make sure you are reading the newsletter sent out monthly from L&T. I have asked Dr. Byrd to address these concerns and give you information about where the district is at. Things are changing often, at the state level, with regards to common core and the SBAC. If your administrator isn't keeping you up to date on the district plan, please ask him or her what is going on. Your rep also has a lot of information about this; I try to keep them well informed where we are at in the district and the state with this topic.

Continued on Page 2

Another way the district is hearing your concerns is from a cross section of teachers in the classroom on the Certificated Advisory Board. We have tried to make sure all groups are represented; elementary, middle, TOA's and special education. These teachers meet 3 times a year with the Superintendent, cabinet members, and directors. The meetings focus on important topics such as common core, trainings, technology and testing as well as anything else the group feels they need to bring up. If you have something you would like shared on your behalf please contact one of the members on this committee. The next meeting will be March 10th. The members are: MaryKay Scheid, Brad Richards, Lisa Inga, Michelle Easley, Sam Sager, Margaret Johannsen, Bertha Fitzgerald, Rick Howard, Michael Bui, Jasmine Saunders, Armando Arredondo, Mona Kapoor, Gina Mariscal, and I. I know the district is listening to teachers. I have seen many ideas come from this group and from my discussions with them, and I have witnessed the leaders develop plans to make changes immediately and for the future.

I recognize how stressful it is right now in education as we have made the shift to common core and a new testing system. Still we

are lucky to have a governor in California who understands that over testing children is not what's best for them. I want to give you an update on the accountability timeline for the SBAC in hopes that you will not feel the pressure of the assessment and find time to still try out the standards and materials.

2014-2015: No school wide results, just individual student scores collected (unknown if scores will go to parents yet), NO API

2015-2016: No school wide results, student scores collected, NO API

2016-2017: School growth target set, NO API

2017-2018: API accountability starts

***The school board group and the principal groups are advocating in Sacramento to push back accountability for one more year to the 2018-2019 school year. Of course CTA agrees with this, and is pushing for the same thing. 🍏

ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS/VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS/TEMPORARY TEACHERS

It is unusual to have as many administrative transfers as we have this year. Unfortunately, QEIA is ending. The 10 schools that had been granted funds through QEIA will have class sizes increased next year, causing many permanent teachers to have to administratively transfer. I have been working closely with HR to make sure this goes as smoothly as possible for you. There will be an "interview fair" on March 10th from 1:00 to 4:30. Every site with an opening will be at this fair. Remember, an opening is a school with a temporary teacher and/or a need for more teachers. By the time you read this article, if you are an admin transfer, you should have received an email from the district letting you know what schools have openings. You should try to meet with as many schools as possible at this fair. If there is a school you'd really like to see on this day, but don't get the chance, you will have 5 days after the fair to contact the administrator and set up an interview. After your meetings with the school sites, you will get to rank your top choices. Administrators will also be ranking their choices. HR will do everything they can to make sure you get one of your choices. It might be a good idea to bring a resume and letters of recommendation to leave with administrators so they will have something to remember you.

After all administrative transfers have been placed, posting 2 will open up for voluntary transfers. In order to be a voluntary transfer, you must have a form filled out and on file with HR. According to the contract: All unit members who have initiated a voluntary transfer have the right to apply for any posted opening for which they are qualified. Any unit member who has completed the appropriate Transfer Request Form shall have the opportunity to interview for at least one position on Posting 1 that is reflected in their request form. A voluntary transfer is not guaranteed a position.

Once administrative transfers and voluntary transfers have been placed, posting 3 will open up for temporary teachers. It is expected that posting 3 will begin in May. Temporary teachers may then interview at any site with remaining openings. It is not known right now how many temporary teachers the district will be able to bring back for next year. It is my hope they will be able to bring back many. I would advise temporary teachers not wait for Ontario-Montclair to finish the placement process, and apply elsewhere as a backup. I know how valuable our temps are and don't want to lose any, but I also want you to have a job for next year. 🍏

DISCIPLINE AND EDUCATION CODE

There seems to be growing concern in the district about discipline. There have been some changes to Education Code about suspending students. Ed Code 48900 (v) states: For a pupil subject to discipline under this section, a superintendent of the school district or principal may use his or her discretion to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion that are age appropriate and designed to address and correct the pupil's specific misbehavior as specified in Section 48900.5.

In Education Code 48900.5, there are 9 different ways the superintendent or principal can use "other means of correction." A summary of some of the items include: a conference with parents, referrals to counselors, intervention related teams to assess behavior and develop and implement individualized plan to address behavior, referral for comprehensive psycho-social/educational assessment, enrollment in anger management program, participation in restorative justice program, positive behavior support approach with tiered intervention occurring during school day, after school programs that address behavioral issues or expose pupil to positive activities, and community service on school grounds or off grounds with parents' permission. If you would like to see the full Education Code Document on suspension you can visit our website at www.myomta.org.

Below is the Education Code for teacher suspension of students. Each teacher needs to have a discipline program in place. A class suspension should come after other interventions were unsuccessful. It is imperative that the teacher giving a class suspension contact the student's parent/guardian to have a conference regarding the behavior problem(s), or have documented an effort to contact the parent/guardian and efforts to have a conference.

Teacher suspension of Students

48910. (a) A teacher may suspend any pupil from class, for any of the acts enumerated in Section 48900, for the day of the suspension and the day following. The teacher shall immediately report the suspension to the principal of the school and send the pupil to the principal or the designee of the principal for appropriate action. If that action requires the continued presence of the pupil at the school site, the pupil shall be under appropriate supervision, as defined in policies and related regulations adopted by the governing board of the school district. As soon as possible, the teacher shall ask the parent or guardian of the pupil to attend a parent-teacher conference regarding the suspension. If practicable, a school counselor or a school psychologist may attend the conference. A school administrator shall attend the conference if the teacher or the parent or guardian so requests. The pupil shall not be returned to the class from which he or she was suspended, during the period of the suspension, without the concurrence of the teacher of the class and the principal.

(b) A pupil suspended from a class shall not be placed in another regular class during the period of suspension. However, if the pupil is assigned to more than one class per day this subdivision shall apply only to other regular classes scheduled at the same time as the class from which the pupil was suspended.

(c) A teacher may also refer a pupil, for any of the acts enumerated in Section 48900, to the principal or the designee of the principal for consideration of a suspension from the school. 🍏

JANUARY'S GOVERNORS BUDGET

Every January the Governor releases a proposed budget which is a forecast of how the economy is doing in California. The state's fiscal year starts July 1, just like the school district's. What has been released is not the official adopted budget; that happens in June. Things can and do change from January to June. The next stage in the budget adoption process will be in May, when we receive what is known as the "May Revise." In this proposal, the governor makes adjustments to the proposed budget based on the economy in California. The May Revise is presented for a vote, after legislators have the opportunity to discuss and debate. The adopted budget is typically finalized just prior to the start of the fiscal year. Things in California are looking really good and we anticipate continuing to

hear good news for education in May. Below is an article from CTA highlighting the great news about funding for public education for the 2015-2016 year:

GOV. BROWN'S PROPOSED BUDGET MOVES CALIFORNIA CLOSER TO FULLY RESTORING FUNDING AFTER YEARS OF DRASTIC BUDGET CUTS

State ranked 46th in the nation in per-pupil funding; commitment to brighter future will provide students with schools they deserve

Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled his proposed state budget Friday including \$7.8 billion in new funding for K-12 schools and community colleges. This includes \$998 million to pay off all

Continued on Back Page

remaining outstanding deferral debt, which was more than \$10 billion in 2011-12. The budget proposal also includes \$762 million for CSU and UC systems of higher education and \$1.1 billion toward the ongoing implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The governor maintains his commitment to subsidiarity and the ongoing implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula to ensure educators, students, parents and communities are making collaborative decisions that will lead to student success. While CTA continues to review the budget details, President Dean E. Vogel released the following statement:

“The governor’s budget proposal gives us hope after learning yesterday that California ranks 46th in the nation in per-pupil funding. Even with the fruits of Prop. 30 and unprecedented revenue increases, we’re still at the bottom nationally on how much we invest in our students. We see the governor’s continued commitment to a brighter future for our state by allocating funds to repay the billions of dollars that had been cut from students, schools and colleges. Now school districts – working alongside educators, parents and communities – can continue to restore critical programs so our students have more one-



on-one attention, inviting classrooms and a well-rounded curriculum. In the face of new academic standards, educators continue to do good work in our schools, and the increased funding the governor has proposed for the ongoing implementation of the Common Core State Standards will help support educators with training and up-to-date materials. Our college students have felt the pain of increasing tuition costs, so we commend the governor for investing in higher education and recognizing that students cannot continue to foot that bill. Educators are equally committed to their students and a brighter future for California. We look forward to working with the governor and all lawmakers for a productive legislative session that will move us in that direction.”

The governor’s budget plan was released one day after Education Week released its annual Quality Counts report. According to the report released Thursday, California ranked 46th in the nation in per-student spending in the 2011-12 school year. According to the report, at that time California spent \$3,427 less per student than the national average and \$10,574 less per child than the top ranked state of Vermont. 🍏

OMTA OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS

President/State Council Rep: Amy Johnson
President@myomta.org
1st Vice President: Brad Richards
2nd Vice President: Daniel Salcido
Secretary: Melody Kelly
Treasurer: MaryKay Scheid

CTA State Council Representatives
Cindy Lopez Elwell, Tracy Taylor, Amy Johnson
Service Center 1 Representatives
Shari Megaw, Tisha Curry, Trudy Cowan,
John Egan, MaryKay Scheid
Bargaining Chair: MaryKay Scheid
Elections Chair: Erine Ames

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: Abel De Casas, Nancy Mason
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
Lincoln: Kellie Wilson, Denise Dryden
Mariposa: Lindsay Gallagher, Rosa Ronquillo
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 Tucker, 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: Daniel Salcido
PE/APE: Shaun Walters
Speech: Susan Yee
Health/Nurse: Marissa Sitz
Early Ed/Pre-School: Leticia Martinez
HFB/Hardy Center: Olivia Craig