



# ADVOCATE

## Ontario-Montclair Teachers Association

February 2021



### IMPORTANT DATES MARCH

**8<sup>th</sup>** OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**18<sup>th</sup>** OMSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>**  
SPRING BREAK – NO SCHOOL

**29<sup>th</sup>** OMTA REP COUNCIL MEETING

### OMTA MARCH ELECTIONS

**1<sup>st</sup>** 5TH OMTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

**11<sup>th</sup>** 17TH NEA-RA LOCAL

**11<sup>th</sup>** 17TH CTA STATE COUNCIL



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This is an Elections Issue of the Advocate. Because of COVID, and the inability of our candidates being able to campaign, I thought it would be helpful to allow the candidates to have a venue to reach out to the voting members of the upcoming election. This election will also be held electronically, via Simply Voting. Since CTA, does not encourage the use of District provided email, members wishing to vote will need to provide OMTA with a personal email that will allow them to vote. Your respective site representatives should have already reached out to you regarding this matter. There is a good chance that all elections down the line will be held electronically. As well, the Advocate will in due time be available only through the OMTA website.



Many of you are starting to receive the many COVID vaccinations being distributed by local health organizations. Hopefully, by the time of this writing, the District will be giving information to all employees about another vaccine event that will give a sense of security to all in the event we return to school sites before this school year ends.

The one issue that impacts us all, but more importantly our students, is the possible decision of testing as we end up the school year. Unfortunately, the decision is out of our District's hands. We recently had a presidential election that ended with a change in presidents. The new president, Joseph Biden, has nominated for Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona. Mr. Cardona has yet to be confirmed by Congress. Once confirmed, Mr. Cardona may or may not waive the federal requirement student assessments. So, for now, we wait.

There are very real concerns with testing while we are amidst online learning. I think the most important issue would be the social and emotional well-being of students while testing. We already know that many students are having bouts of depression and anxiety just from being sequestered at home and confined to online learning. I feel for those students who know they would do much better in the confines of a classroom where learning is fostered and supported by a certificated or licensed professional. The other concern is the efficacy of testing while students are doing online learning. There is no way to gauge authentic learning via online instruction. We know that parents and siblings coach from the sidelines while many students perform online learning. Also, many students have handheld devices with which to find answers either through searches or via their friends. Then there are those students who choose not to show up regularly to class. Knowing this, teachers simply cannot be held accountable for the results of any test scores right now. 🍏

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Your vote is appreciated.

We need to be **Stronger Now More Than Ever!**

## JUDY WESTBROOK

1st Vice President

OMTA needs to be **stronger now more than ever**-we must continue to communicate, advocate, and apply pressure to get what we need for ourselves, our students, our classrooms, and our own families.

**Our Concerns Matter!**

- Whether you are a General or Special Educator, PreK to 8th Grade Teacher, TOA/Coach, Nurse or Counselor **your needs and concerns deserve to be heard.**
- A **safe return to school** for us, our students, and everyone's families continues to be critically important.
- **Appropriate resources should be supplied** for whatever the educational platform looks like to ensure that our students' needs are met.
- **Equal** treatment at all sites and offices is imperative.



Through work on OMTA endorsed candidate campaigns, I have served OMTA since I was in 8th grade. For over two decades, as 2nd Vice President, Service Center 1 Representative & Steering Committee Member, Bargaining Committee Member, Political Action Chair, Grievance Committee Chair, and Advocate Newsletter Editor, I have served you and voiced your concerns. Please allow me to continue to use my experience & effort to serve you and fight for you.



## Vote Tisha for 1<sup>st</sup> VP!

**Experienced**  
Elementary teacher from TK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and co-teach with an OH Special Education teacher. Served as a Bargaining Team member, on the Teacher Initiated Fund Committee, on the OMTA board as Secretary, and as one of OMTA's Service Center Reps.

**Dedicated**  
I am available to our members, so we can keep working together!

**Positive**  
I strive to build relationships to keep us better together!

**Stand Up**  
I am willing to speak up for member's rights because that's what makes us stronger together!



**My Fellow OMTA & Awesome Educators of OMSD:** I am Daniel Salcido, and I am running for the 1st Vice-President. For more than a decade I have served as an Elementary Educator, Music Teacher, Site Representative, Executive Board Member, Bargaining Team Member, Treasurer, and 2nd Vice-President in OMTA. I've been your voice at California Teacher Association (CTA) Events, the National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA), as well as the Nation Teacher Association (NEA) Conventions, where I worked for your rights as an educator.

The Pandemic has caused serious issues and I have taken a firm stand with our Leaders to make important and necessary changes to our work environments at home and at our school sites. I always work to make sure that your needs as an Educator are heard. I will be honored once again to serve you as the 1st Vice President. Thank You!

## DAN SALCIDO for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

## Monica Lite

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/  
Service Center Rep.



It is my honor to represent all unit members on executive board as your current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. A 24-year veteran teacher in OMSD, nothing has prepared us for the last 2 years. Looking forward, we need to:

- Ensure safe schools and safer facilities as we return to in-person instruction
- Fair share for unit members in order to support our families
- More support services at school sites as we continue to close the achievement gap.
- Meaningful professional development and protecting instructional minutes and prep time.

## Together, We Are Stronger!

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**Brad Joplin**

Wiltsey Middle School  
OMTA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



- 20-year veteran in OMSD with the last 18 years at Wiltsey MS.
- Currently serving as OMTA Site Rep.
- Served on Safe Return to Work task force last summer.
- Serving on the OMTA bargaining team for the past 3 years.
- Member of Return-to-Work MOU Team.

Being part of the bargaining team has shown me the importance of having dedicated and committed people in these roles to ensure our members' rights are protected. I have had the opportunity to serve in this role, and I am committed to seeing that our members' interests and concerns are properly represented. As we continue to work hard toward a safe return to school, be confident in the fact that I will hold our members' safety a top priority as discussions continue with the district. I am also committed to seeing that our teachers receive the compensation they deserve, especially in this time when teachers had to re-learn their jobs in a weekend. As 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, I will have this new opportunity to continue serving our OMTA members' and supporting our Executive Board as we work together, moving forward, to get back in the classroom in a safe and timely manner.

# Vote for Jose China

OMTA Treasurer

Here to help and support.



**Hi! my name is Erine Ames and I am running for OMTA treasurer.**

**I believe in our union and wish to contribute as part of the leadership team. I have been a building rep, Election Chair and spent 2 terms as treasurer for OMTA. When I was treasurer for OMTA, I helped create a balanced budget, paid receipts and kept OMTA on track with the budget for the year. I have worked for OMSD for 31 years teaching at 4 schools in the district, grades 1,2,4,5,6,7, and 8. I am also a wife and mother so I know how to work with a budget and be fiscally conservative so OMTA will continue to serve all our certificated members' needs.**

**Please vote for me. Thank you so much for actively participating in our elections.**



Vote MaryKay Scheid  
OMTA Treasurer  
Experienced Dedicated  
Passionate Knowledgeable  
Responsive

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

- TREASURER
- VICE PRESIDENT
- PRESIDENT
- LGBTQ+ CONTACT
- BARGAINING TEAM
- INSURANCE COMMITTEE

SERVICE CENTER ONE

- STATE COUNCIL DELEGATE
- SECRETARY
- TREASURER

*I have a proven track record of listening attentively and providing support. Let me fight for you!*

**CAST YOUR VOTE FOR AN EXPERIENCED LEADER, PASSIONATE ADVOCATE, AND INCLUSIVE COLLABORATOR**

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**Vote Kim Hunter**  
**OMTA Service Center**  
**Representative!**



- 18 years teaching experience in Elementary and Middle school
- 6 years' experience as a trusted and dedicated CTA Trained Site Representative
- 4<sup>th</sup> year serving on School Site Council
- 2020 Superintendents' Return to Work Oversight Committee
- 2021 Superintendents' Certificated Advisory Board, Five Year Plan
- Represented, supported, and guided numerous colleagues
- Collaborative experience with Bargaining Unit Members, Administration, OMTA President, Former OMTA President, E-Board Members and District.

Dedicated to Making a Positive Difference for  
ALL Bargaining Unit Members!

**Experience + Passion + Hard Work = Results**

**Dr. Malinda Hurley**  
**Service Center One Rep**

**Ready to Represent OMTA Educators for One Year:**  
**Collaborative Dedicated**  
**Hard-working Leader Loyal Reliable**

**LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

**ONTARIO-MONTCLAIR TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

- **NEA RA LOCAL DELEGATE**
- **SITE REP COUNCIL MEMBER**

**SERVICE CENTER ONE**

- **EMEID PARTICIPANT**
- **EMLD TRAINING PARTICIPANT/ORGANIZER**
- **SERVICE CENTER ONE EQUITY TEAM**
- **SERVICE CENTER ONE WOMEN'S ADVOCACY COORDINATOR**



Dr.  
Malinda  
Hurley

**HONORED IF YOU CAST YOUR VOTE FOR**

**DR. MALINDA HURLEY**

**SERVICE CENTER ONE REP**

**BETTER TOGETHER: "WE'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE IT,"**

**UNION STRONG.**

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**Hello, my name is Trudy Cowan and I want to be your service center rep. We have many challenges facing education today. We need representation that not only attend meetings, but who will stand up for us at board meetings. We need someone willing to make a difference by writing letters to state and federal legislatures as well as the governor and president.**

**Education was already facing tough times with the people who want to privatize education. Now with COVID-19 comes new struggles. We need people who will take the time and make our voices heard. Let me be your voice as Service Center 1 Rep. A vote for Trudy Cowan is a voice for you.**

## HYBRID MOU

As soon as the Hybrid MOU is completed and signed, I am going to schedule some webinars in order to go over the MOU in order to address the details of the document for when we return to school to teach students. The Webinars will be broken up into groups in order to address the needs of specific grade levels. OMTA will be presenting and members can ask questions via the chat. Unfortunately, our Zoom capability is only 100 attendees at a time, and I know this is going to create some possible conflicts with some wanting to attend. At this point in time there are no specific dates set, but I anticipate that we will start probably the second week in March depending on how bargaining finishes with the District. The start times will be around 3:30 in the afternoon. If you are interested in attending one of the sessions keep an eye out for an email from me within the next few weeks. Thank you all for the work you have done for our students. 🍏