

Membership
Update



March 6, 2015

From the President...

Legislative Update

Pension Lawsuit

Last week, Superior Court Judge Sarah Taft-Carter denied the parties request to delay the jury trial that is scheduled to commence on April 20, 2015. A petition was filed in Supreme court by the unions and the retiree plaintiffs seeking to block Judge Taft-Carter's decision.

Educational Bills

Several Bills that may have significant impact in our state were introduced to the RI General Assembly. The PTU will closely monitor the travel of these Bills. In addition, the membership will be kept informed of any Bill that is sent to committee that may require our testimony or an organized campaign in either support of or in opposition to. It is imperative that our collective voices are heard on matters that effect our schools, our students and our profession.

The following Bills require our attention. For a description of the Bill, please go to the PTU website:

SUPPORT

H5055-Income Tax- Retirement Income Exemption

H5056-Income Tax- Retirement Income Exemption

H5136-Dyslexia Targeted assistance (sponsored by our own PTU member Rep. O'Brien)

H5140-Distribution of State Surplice

H5160-Mayoral Charter School Approval Process

H5169-Pension Litigation Costs

H5170-DSP Rate Increase

H5180-Public Employee Card Check

H5203-Income Tax-Retirement Income Exemption

H5204- Mayoral Academy Pension Participation

H5206-Tax Equity- Municipal Aid and School Construction

H5211- State Employee Retiree Medical Benefits

H5228-Higher Education Tuition- Immigration Status

H5236-Income Tax- \$15,000 Retirement Income Exemption



From the President...

Legislative Update (continued...)

SUPPORT

- H5275- Full Day Kindergarten Funding
- H5350- Municipal Employee Binding Arbitration
- H5393-School Construction Moratorium-Abolish
- H5394-Education Funding Formula Acceleration
- H5434-School Construction reorganization and Funding
- H5475- Contract Continuation- Teachers and Municipal Employees
- S0044-DSP Rate Increase
- S0087-Mayoral Charter School Approval Process
- S0101-Income Tax- Retirement Income Tax Exemption
- S0104-Budget Commission Authority- Employment
- S0144-Full Day Kindergarten Funding
- S0155-Teacher Certification- Notice of Renewal
- S0162-Pension Litigation Costs
- S0202- Charter School Funding
- S0210-Income Tax -Retirement Income Exemption
- S0214- DD Funding \$15,000,000
- S0233-Adjunct Faculty Medical Insurance
- S0305- Higher Education Tuition- Immigration Status

OPPOSE

- H5077-Higher Education-Academic Progress and Completion
- H5383- Student Suspensions
- H5519- Constitutional Amendment- Line item Veto
- S0057 and S0059 Constitutional Amendment- Line item Veto
- S0066 and S0067 Voter Initiative
- S0201-Teacher Termination- Full Board
- S0299-Student Suspensions
- S0314- Charter School Housing Aid



From the President...

CBH Update

Last week the PTU/PPSD CBH Committee approved this year's CBH timeline and procedures manual. This year's hiring fairs will be held on the following dates:

Hiring Fair I

Saturday, March 28, 2014 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31, 2014 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Hiring Fair II

Thursday, May 28, 2015 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 30, 2015 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Both hiring fairs will be held at Central High School.

Teachers and administrators will receive this year's CBH procedures manual via PPSD email shortly. If you have not already done so and are planning to participate in this year's hiring fairs, please go on the new applicant tracking system (PATS) and create an account. Any teacher needing assistance with this process, should contact his/her field representative at the Union office.

PTU Constitution & By-Laws Committee

The members of the PTU Constitution and By-Laws Committee have finalized proposed amendments to the PTU Constitution & By-Laws. The committee's recommendations will be presented for membership ratification at our April membership meeting. Prior to the vote, members will be provided with a copy of the proposed amendments and will have an opportunity to have questions or concerns addressed at one of the informational briefing sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the members of the committee for their participation with this important task.

Maribeth Calabro, co-chair

Michael Fioravanti, co-chair

Lourdes Aguirre
Orah Bilmes
Marianne Davidson
Pearl Holloway
Nancy Krahe
Anna Kupperman

Alex Lucini
Allan Mawhiney
Colleen McCarthy
Kathy McDonough
Robyn Peterson
Deb Pilkington

Cheri Sanger
Roland Sasseville
Jeremy Sencer

From the President...

Save the Dates

By-Laws & Const. Amendments

Informational Meetings:

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Information meetings will begin at 4:00.

Location to be determined.

Membership Meetings:

March 11, 2015 Regular Meeting
(4:00 at PTU)

April 15, 2015 - By-Laws & Constitution
Amendments Vote
(Time & Location TBA)

In Memoriam

*"I am a firm believer that a teacher lives on
and on through his students. Good teaching is
forever and the teacher is immortal."*

—Jesse Stuart

Robert Andrade — February 10, 2015
Social Studies teacher at E-Cubed Academy



Mayor's Educational Task Force

On February 11, 2015, a group of Providence teachers joined by President Maribeth Calabro met with Anna Cano-Morales, to discuss issues and concerns that impede the educational process in our schools and our classrooms. Issues such as student discipline, school facilities, technology and parent engagement were discussed. Teachers expressed how these areas have a direct impact on student achievement and provided ideas for making improvements.

Ms. Cano-Morales is the chair of Mayor Elorza's Education committee for his One Providence Steering Committee. She is charged with the task of creating an educational report that will guide Mayor Elorza in his educational policies for our schools. I am hopeful that Ms. Cano-Morales reflects our concerns and, more importantly, our ideas in the report so that Providence teachers can provide a quality education to all of our students.

From the President...

Reminders....



◆ **Open Office Hours**

Open office hours is an opportunity for President Calabro to hear directly from you. If you have any concerns or suggestions, call the Union office to schedule an appointment. *Open office hours* are between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. on the following dates:

March 26*	May 27
April 9	June 17

**revised date*

◆ **Town Hall Meetings**

In addition to our regularly scheduled membership meetings, members are encouraged to attend *town meetings* from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on the following dates. *Town meetings* are an opportunity to have in formal conversations regarding the issues that concern our profession:

March 18	May 20
April 2	June 10

◆ **Certification Renewal**

Teachers are reminded to begin the certification renewal process for any certificate that is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2015. Upon receipt of your renewed certificate, a copy should be forwarded to the Office of Human Resources.