

Membership
Update



December 13, 2013

From the President...

TEACHER EVALUATIONS NEWS

On Thursday, December 12, 2013, the Joint PTU/PPSD Teacher Evaluation Committee decided that due to the numerous concerns that were raised from many ELA/Reading and Math teachers across the district regarding the use of STAR assessments as the **primary** SLO assessment, a decision was made to change the guidance concerning STAR as it relates to the SLO/SOO.

The following changes have been reflected in the 2013-14 Teacher Evaluation Handbook:

Effective 2013-14 school year, all PPSD teachers will use multiple measures for determination of baseline, progress monitoring and final assessments for the Student Learning/Outcome Objective (SLO/SOO). All Math (1-12) teachers and ELA/Reading teachers (4-12) will use multiple measures, including STAR, for determination of baseline, progress monitoring, and final assessment for the Student Learning/Outcome Objective (SLO/SOO) in grades listed above.

In lieu of this new guidance, any teacher who wants to make a modification to their SLO/SOO's may do so by December 20, 2013. **Teachers who do not want to modify their SLO/SOO's may continue with the SLO/SOO that has already been submitted.**

Respectfully,

Maribeth Calabro
Vice President At-Large

Breakfast in the Classroom

Many Elementary teachers have expressed concerns regarding the Breakfast in the Classroom program. In addition to the interference of teaching/learning time, issues such as the quality of the food, insufficient milk for students, trash not being disposed of in a timely manner and the effect it has had on classroom cleanliness have also been raised. These concerns, and more, have been addressed at multiple Joint Committee meetings with the Superintendent and members of her staff. The PTU will continue to advocate to have breakfast served in the student cafeteria instead of the classrooms.

Teacher support and input is essential for continuing to address issues regarding the breakfast program with the district. I want to thank those teachers who have already communicated issues that they have encountered in their classroom with this program. I will be working with building delegates to address specific issues at each elementary school. If you are experiencing any problems in your classroom with the breakfast program, please report them to your building delegate. Once all of the data is compiled, the information will be shared with the Superintendent so that the deficiencies may be addressed.

From the President...

PTU 17th Annual Book Drive

With the proceeds from this year's Dress Down Day, new books for all age groups were purchased.

Over 1,200 new books were donated to the following Providence community centers:

Washington Park
Federal Hill House

DaVinci Center
Silver Lake

Joslin Center
Nickerson

Thank you to everyone who made this year's book drive a great success!



Special Education Referral Process

Any teacher who is in the process of referring a student for Special Education testing, is encouraged to maintain copies of any and all information submitted with the referral (including the parental consent form). It is also highly encouraged to maintain a log of any meeting associated with the student referral (i.e. TST, Special Ed Team).

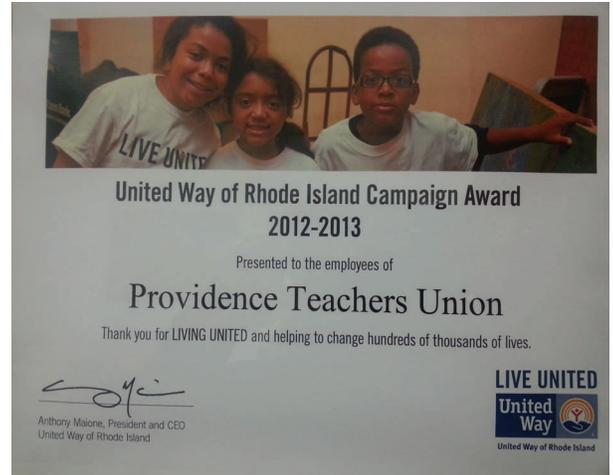
If you experience difficulty in the Special Education referral process, please contact your field representative at the Union office.

From the President...

Thank You from United Way

At the November building delegate meeting, representatives from United Way thanked building delegates for the work that they do with distributing contribution information at their schools.

They also thanked Providence teachers for their generosity in contributing thousands of dollars over the years to various charities through United Way.



Reminders...

◆ **Membership Meetings**

Membership meetings will be held on the following dates. Please note that all meetings will be held at the Union office and will begin at 4:00 p.m.

March 12, 2014

April 9, 2014

May 14, 2014

◆ **Sick Leave Retirement Payment**

Teachers who are contemplating retiring this school year, are reminded of the unused sick leave payment provisions in Article 4-8.1. Please note that the deadline for retirement notification to Human Resources to be eligible for the 50% payment of unused sick leave is **January 31, 2014**. For specific eligibility requirements, please refer to Article 4-8.1 of the contract or contact your field representative at the Union office.