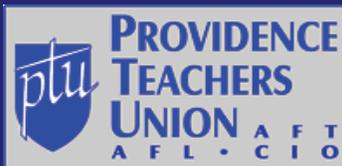


Membership
Update



June 13, 2013

From the President...

Governor Chafee Backs Commissioner Gist for 2 More Years

Governor Chafee has ignored the concerns of thousands of Rhode Island's teachers by supporting the Board of Education's renewal of Deborah Gist's contract. The actual vote was seven to three, but undoubtedly the Governor's approval of the Commissioner weighed heavily on the results.

Board members Colleen Callahan, Larry Purtill and Mathies Santos cast the dissenting votes. I appreciate and commend their fortitude and support. I also would like to thank the teachers who voiced their opinions during this debate. The outcome was a bitter disappointment, but the campaign has served to shed some light on the legitimate concerns that teachers have with Commissioner Gist's leadership and policies. Several hundred teachers attended the meeting held at CCRI in Warwick.

PTU Secretary Dan Wall and I both testified regarding the detrimental effect that the Commissioner's tenure has had on public education in Providence schools as well as in schools across the state. Furthermore, I stated to the Board of Education that Commissioner Gist is "heavy on compliance but light on support." referring to the Commissioners practice of issuing mandates without clear guidance and support for implementation. I also emphasized the importance of keeping teacher voice in the conversation around meaningful reform. Prior to the vote, I had an opportunity to speak with Governor Chafee's Chief of Staff, George Zainyeh, and Governor Chafee to make clear our position as it pertains to Commissioner Gist's reappointment.

It is important that we keep the issues raised during this contract debate on the public's agenda. We will not allow this set-back to diminish our resolve to advocate for the benefit of our students and our profession.

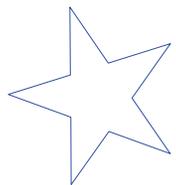
Teacher Evaluation

Teacher evaluations must be completed by **Friday, June 14, 2013**.

Any teacher who has a concern relative to the evaluation process or his/her final evaluation effectiveness rating has the right to appeal his/her evaluation under the contractual grievance procedure. Please note, in accordance with our grievance procedure, grievances must be filed within twenty (20) school days upon receiving your final effectiveness rating. Summer recess does not count towards the twenty (20) day requirement. However, it is in a teacher's best interest to file a grievance for an unsatisfactory evaluation sooner rather than later.

Field representatives at the Union office are available should a teacher need assistance with the grievance.

From the President...

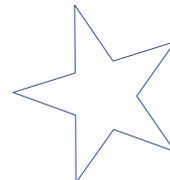


End of the Year Party

Date: Friday, June 21, 2013

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Location: Pearl Restaurant
393 Charles Street
Providence, RI



Free valet parking.

Assorted hors d'oeuvres and
refreshments will be served.





From the President...

Payroll

◆ **Longevity Reimbursement**

The remaining 50% longevity reimbursement will be issued to eligible teachers on July 3, 2013. Direct deposit will be utilized for those teachers who are currently enrolled. All other checks will be mailed to teachers' homes.

◆ **Sick Leave Bonus**

Sick Leave Bonus checks will be issued on July 17, 2013. Eligible teachers will be notified by the Payroll Office during the first week in July.

Teacher Programs

Teachers should have received their teaching program (name of course(s)/grade level) for the 2013-14 school year. Complete schedules to be provided no later than August 13th.

Any teacher who wishes to appeal their 2013-14 teaching program may do so by submitting an appeal form to the PTU. You may obtain an appeal form by contacting the Union office or downloading one from the PTU website.

Professional Development

Effective June 30, 2013, teachers will no longer have access to MyLearning Plan. Information with respect to completed professional development activities will transfer to the new Teachscape LEARN platform. As a precaution, it is strongly recommended that teachers print their information off of MyLearning Plan before June 30th.

A one-hour training for the Teachscape LEARN platform is scheduled on June 17 & 19 at 3:45 p.m. at PCTA. The training will walk teachers through accessing your profile on LEARN and registering for summer professional development workshops. Teachers interested in attending one of the workshops should register on MyLearning Plan.

Next year, in addition to the allotted district PD hours, all teachers will have 10 hours of school-based PD. Two of those hours will be on SLO training.