

Membership  
Update



May 15, 2013

From the President...

## Proposed Changes to Work Day/School Day Defined

Several months ago, the district commissioned a transportation study to examine ways to provide student transportation more efficiently. Through that study, it was learned that the district could save approximately \$2.5 million dollars in transportation costs by aligning the bell schedules and tiering the bus schedules differently. In addition to the significant cost savings, the proposed changes will allow teachers at the Middle School and High School level to have common planning time which is vital for improving student instruction.

In order to achieve the above, the work day and the school day as defined in Articles 8-5.2 and 8-5.3 in our contract will need to be amended. To that end, the PTU Executive Board has authorized me to enter into a tentative Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (attached) to amend Article 8-5.2, Work Day Defined (Teachers); Article 8-5.3, School Day Defined (Students) and Article 2, Half Day. In order for the changes to go into effect, the MOA must be approved by the PTU membership and the Providence City Council.

A special membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at Hope High School from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** (see attached notice).

Prior to members voting on May 29th, three informational meetings will be held next week to give members an opportunity to have questions and concerns addressed. Superintendent Lusi will also be present at each informational session to answer questions about the proposed changes. The informational meeting schedule is below. If you are unable to attend your school's designated meeting date, please feel free to attend a different session. All three sessions will be held in the cafeteria at Asa Messer at Bridgham Elementary school, 1655 Westminster Street, Providence.

At yesterday's building delegate meeting, delegates were provided with a summary of the proposed changes. Please keep in mind that the early release as noted for Middle and High Schools is subject to change per the district's discretion. For example, at the High School level, some schools may have a late arrival instead of early release. More definitive information with respect to early release will be provided at the informational meetings.



From the President...

## Informational Meeting Schedule

<b>Monday, May 20, 2013</b> <b>3:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 21, 2013</b> <b>3:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Wednesday, May 22, 2013</b> <b>4:15 p.m.</b>
Stuart Feinstein at Broad St. Fortes Lima Lima Annex Birch Greene Times2 (Elem & Sec) Veazie Hopkins West Central Asa Messer Hope	Classical ACE DelSesto Webster Kennedy Spaziano Spaziano Annex Carl Lauro Carnevale Fogarty Intake Center SAO Mt. Pleasant E-Cubed	Sanchez Bishop Kizirian BJ Clanton D'Abate King Bailey Vartan Gregorian Reservoir Sackett Administration Alvarez Roger Williams Pleasant View PCTA

## From the President...

### Teacher Appreciation Reception

Last Thursday, over 300 teachers attended the Teacher Appreciation Reception at the Botanical Center at Roger Williams Park. Several teachers approached me and expressed how impressed they were with the event. The Superintendent addressed the crowd by thanking teachers for all they do every day and spoke about the future of the district. For those of you who were not in attendance, below are a few excerpts from her remarks.

“...from the District level we will focus our attention on growing and retaining high quality principals, giving those high quality principals and the teachers they work with more autonomy and decision making authority (including over resources and curriculum – while still maintaining alignment with the Common Core and having common ways to assess student learning) and we will maintain and grow the work we’ve started by developing collaborative leadership structures within individual school buildings.

In addition, I – with the full support of the mayor and school board leadership – will be implementing a new organizational structure for the central office. That new structure will enable the district to execute on our shared vision for raising student achievement, requiring accountability, and enhancing and encouraging school-based autonomy and collaboration.

I also think in at least some instances, we need to do a thoughtful reset. I have asked for a district-wide map/calendar of everything we are asking principals and teachers to do at the building level because I am worried that we’re doing to you what RIDE does to us and that we are reaching, or in some cases have reached, the point of diminishing returns. All of this work is done in good faith and with the best of intentions -- but when you add it all up, it assumes more than 24 hours in day. I look forward to engaging some of our teachers and administrators in this thoughtful reset so that what we do together works on the ground in our classrooms and for our students.

I know that there are myriad factors that influence student performance. And my job, and the district's job is to get you more control and flexibility to do what you need to do for kids with the resources at your disposal. My job and the district's job is also to provide recognition for doing good work and that’s what today is about. We are here to celebrate our teachers and say a profound thank you for all you do each and every day.”

I welcome the Superintendent’s remarks as it is a clear indication that the district is moving away from a top-down central office model and moving towards putting more resources and decision-making at the school level. I personally want to thank Doris DeloSantos, Maura Galvao and Deb Pilkington for making this joint effort between the City, the School Department and the PTU a success.



From the President...

A Message from the RI Federation of Teachers



## **Educator Open Forum**

**When:** Monday, May 20th 2013  
**Where:** Cranston High School West Auditorium  
80 Metropolitan Ave, Cranston, RI 02920  
**Time:** 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

The RIFTHP and NEARI will be holding a public forum for educators to provide oral and/or written comments on issues of concern regarding the impact of RIDE policies on our profession and the students we teach.

This forum will allow Rhode Island public school teachers to have an opportunity to address their concerns regarding Rhode Island's education policy and leadership. An open format will be used and members will be afforded two minutes to speak on a topic. A stenographic record will be compiled. Written testimony will be accepted from anyone not wishing to speak at the meeting. All testimony will be presented to the Board of Education at the meeting held on May 23, 2013.

Possible topics to be addressed can include but are not limited to:

*Evaluation/Student Learning Objectives  
Graduation Requirements/NECAP  
Seniority/Job Selection  
School Facilities*

**Be Heard!!**

Take this  
opportunity for  
your voices to be heard.

This is our chance to give the practitioners' viewpoint of the impact RIDE's policies are having on teachers and students.

**Your Opinions  
Matter!!**



From the President...

**Reminders....**

◆ **Final Payroll Check Dates**

- **May 17, 2013**
- **May 31, 2013**
- **June 21, 2013 (last day of school)**
  
- **The first 26-pay period summer check will be issued on June 28, 2013.**

◆ **Contact Information**

Please make sure the PTU has your up-to-date home address, phone number and email address. If you need to make a change, please call Sharon at the PTU or email her at [general@proteun.org](mailto:general@proteun.org).

◆ **Save the Date**

PTU will be hosting the End of the Year Party on June 21st! Detailed information forthcoming.