

Membership
Update



November 1, 2013

From the President...

Executive Board Members Address School Board Regarding Breakfast In the Classroom

At the October 28th School Board meeting, Executive Board members Cherie Sanger (VP of Elementary) and Alex Lucini (COPE) addressed the School Board's Health & Wellness Committee regarding the district's school breakfast program in the elementary classrooms.

Cherie, who teaches at Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary school, presented numerous concerns to the committee that elementary classroom teachers have raised regarding the current breakfast program. Cherie spoke about the amount of instructional time students lose due to eating breakfast in the classroom as well as the impact that it is having on the overall cleanliness of classrooms throughout the district.

School Board members requested that Cherie and Alex continue the conversation with district administrators in order to work towards possible solutions. **Please communicate any issues/concerns to your building delegate that you are experiencing in your classroom as a result of serving breakfast in your classroom so that we may address them when we meet with the district.**

We will keep you posted on our progress.

Alvarez High School

On October 28, 2013, a presentation was made to the Providence School Board about the projected increase in the middle school population. One of the recommendations made to the Board is to close Alvarez High School at the conclusion of the 2013-14 school year and re-open it as a middle school for the 2014-15 school year.

In addressing the Board, President Smith stated that the Board should not advocate for closing additional schools in Providence. He requested that they find alternative space to accommodate the middle school population. Population fluctuations should not be dealt with on a year-to-year basis. The Board needs to develop a strategic plan that provides short-term and long-term solutions.

Special Education Issues

Over the last several years, there have been more and more concerns raised with the RTI process. One of the biggest complaints is the extensive amount of time that it takes to have a student appropriately placed. We recognize that there are special education regulations that must be adhered to; however, it is our position, that the district must provide teachers with meaningful support during the RTI process.

We have begun to address some of the more severe issues that have been brought to our attention with Superintendent Lusi. Please continue to report to your field representative at the Union office any issues that you encounter in your classroom as a result of the RTI process or lack of support from the Office of Special Education.

From the President...

Teacher Evaluation News

The joint PTU/PPSD Teacher Evaluation Committee (TEC) is in the process of approving two documents that all educators can use for the following:

1. If there is a procedural error or process error, the educator may fill out a form called the Review of Process and/or Procedural Errors form to inform us of said error prior to receiving your final effectiveness rating.
2. If an educator wishes to appeal a rating, at anytime during the process, he or she may do so by filling out the Appeal of PPGR and/or SLO rating form so that the evidence and scores may be reviewed.

I am currently working on developing a "considerations document" for all Support Professionals, with their input. To accompany the RIIESS rubric.

A friendly reminder: All teacher's should have their SLO's/PGG's and Lesson Plans submitted by now.

The Educator Evaluation Handbook was updated on October 16, 2013, with the most up-to-date information you need on the entire evaluation process. Please save this document or print it as it is a valuable resource.

Please be sure to refer to the rubric as much as possible in preparation for your observation. The rubric should also be utilized in your conferences with your evaluator as it provides specific examples for your consideration.

Best,
Maribeth Calabro
maribeth.calabro@ppsd.org

Providence City Council—Renaissance Hotel Tax Breaks

On Tuesday, October 29, a hearing was held by the Providence City Council sub-committee on the revocation of the Renaissance Hotel tax breaks. The Renaissance Hotel was purchased by the Procaccianti Group in December 2012 and has since resisted attempts by their employees to improve their working conditions. Many groups and organizations in Providence such as Unite Here 217, Providence fire fighters, Jobs with Justice RI, and Fureza Laboral were present to give support to revoking the tax breaks.

President Steve Smith testified before the sub-committee that as the city rebounds from a fiscal crisis and has closed schools to cut spending, giving tax breaks to large scale corporations is not in the best interest of the taxpayer or the children in the city.

Steve encouraged the City Council to not succumb to the threats of the business community that Providence cannot attract business without giving lucrative tax breaks.



From the President...

A Message from the COPE Chairperson

The purpose of the PTU COPE is two-fold, to educate members on political issues and to educate elected officials about concerns of our membership. As we move forward as an organization, I hope to bring elected officials together with our membership to have spirited conversations that will ultimately benefit the conditions that effect teaching and learning in our schools.

An important way to get involved is to pledge to our COPE drive. This pledge of \$1 per paycheck (for 21 pay periods). Because union due by law are not allowed to be used for political action, this pledge allows for the COPE to be taken seriously in the political sphere of our state. If you are interested in our shared mission, please see your building delegate for information on how to enroll in COPE.

Respectfully,

Alex Lucini

Elections

Members of the Providence Teachers Union who wish to be considered for the position of Treasurer, Vice President of Middle Schools or Vice President of Special Groups should submit their name and a brief resume to the PTU Attn: Nominating Committee, 99 Corliss Street, Providence, RI 02904 **no later than Friday, November 8, 2013.**

A **special membership meeting** will be held on **November 13, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.** at the PTU office for the purpose of the Nominating Committee making its recommendations. Members may also be nominated from the floor.

If more than one candidate is nominated for a position, an election will be held at the December 11, 2013 membership meeting.

Reminders...

◆ **Membership Meetings**

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

December 11, 2013*

March 12, 2014

April 9, 2014

May 14, 2014

* Location to be announced.

◆ **Retirement Workshop**

Teachers who are eligible to retire this school year are invited to attend a Retirement workshop on November 14, 2013, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Union office. Please call Sharon at the Union office to register.