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GJEA

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nea.org

160 South
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May 2018

The Advocate

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Summer Training for new IEP program

As the district adopts a new program for IEPs, please be aware of your rights. The district has scheduled a day in the summer OR after school sessions early in fall of 2018 to receive this training. Most Intervention Specialists already received a “Save the Date” notice from Special Ed administration. These options are available for all Intervention Specialists to be trained on the new software and the summer and after school trainings will be paid at the hourly wage. However, there can be NO requirement for you to attend beyond our contractual work year and day. If trainings are beyond the contractual work year and day, the district cannot say the training is mandatory even if they have offered the hourly pay.

As we attempted to negotiate specific contractual time during the school year/day to meet this new obligation, the district was not interested in cancelling the days/times they had already sent to Intervention Specialists. But, we were able to receive verbal commitment that if a teacher does not attend the offered training days during the summer or the after-school options, the district will release you a half day for the training that is required. As advocates for teachers and our contractual rights, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the release time.



Gahanna- Jefferson Education Association

GJEA Officers

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Reminders for the end the School Year

Remember to turn your meeting form for hourly pay before you leave to make sure you are paid by June 25th.

Elementary/Preschool teachers only need to attend the workday on May 24th for a half-day in the morning. Since their report cards are due the week before school is out, they may leave in the afternoon as long as they have finished in their room and checked out. This is a result of the issue being brought to our

District PRC.



Mark Your Calendar:

May 11 and 12 - OEA Representative Assembly

May 17 – School Board Meeting – 6:30pm Clark Hall

May 23 - Last Day for Students

May 24 – Last Day for Teachers

May 26 - Graduation – Schottenstein Center – 9am

We have a One Year Contract.

GJEA members ratified a one-year contract 267-39. This will change the amount members will pay for Insurance, as well as some plan design changes. Salaries will see a zero percent pay raise leaving steps intact. For detailed answers you may need to these changes, you are encouraged to speak with a bargaining team member or our Insurance Broker, Joe Grady, of Grady Enterprises.

Other highlights of the contract:

There will be two hours dedicated for training on the new grading system on our Convocation Day. This will be done the first day for teachers on Monday, August 13th.

The Professional Development Advisory Committee (PDAC) will have a representative from each building and will help to guide Professional Development for the district.

The Insurance Committee will have 5 Administrators, 4 Teachers and 1 Bus driver. Decisions will be recommended by consensus, which is 70%.

This contract year, meaning be opening contract for negotiations We will be membership and hope you will take the time to express how you feel on important issues that the team needs to see in our next contract.



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Other Honors at the Retirement Banquet

The Retirement Banquet was held on May 10th at the Airport Marriott. On this night, GJEA honored our retiring teachers for the service they have given to our students. Those honorees were Betsy Coccia, Diana Garvey & Connie Phillips. We wish them well in their next endeavor!

GJEA honors others who have served our association or community in different ways and who have been an inspiration to educators. Kym Lewis was placed in the GJEA Hall of Fame for her many years of dedication to the Association. Kym was a co-chair of membership for a few years and always supportive of our association. During her last few years in Gahanna, she single handedly edited "The Negotiator", our newsletter during negotiations.

The Friend of Education was awarded to Pastor Steve Resch. Steve is the Pastor of Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. Having three of his children graduate from Gahanna Schools, Steve served as Athletic Booster President for 7 years even after his children were no longer involved with sports. Long after his children have graduated, Steve still finds the time to stay engaged with the high school. He has helped with various sporting events, offering his professional service in time of need and leading staff members in Friday morning Bible Studies.

Scholarships will also be awarded to the following students who wish to be in the teaching profession. The John Allen Memorial winner is Abigail Shupe who is graduating from Gahanna this year and will attend Bowling Green State University in Early Childhood Education. This scholarship goes to a student who will graduate from Gahanna and will major in education. The GJEA College winner is Rebecca Whatley who is a 2015 graduate of Gahanna. She is at Capitol University and is majoring in Middle Childhood Education. This scholarship goes to a graduate of Gahanna who is currently enrolled in a college of education. The R. Burton Reed winner is Tiffany Palguta who is a 2015 graduate of Gahanna. She is at Otterbein University and is majoring in Early Childhood Education. This scholarship goes to a student who is either graduating from HS or is already in college and majoring in education AND has a parent who is a member of GJEA. Congratulations to all of our winners!

GJEA Elections

The results in the past elections are as follows: GJEA Officers - President Jenny Palguta, Vice President Dwayne Marshall, Treasurer Joan Miller and Secretary Paige Harding. Site Managers – High School – Jim Brath, Tracy Dyckman, Bobby Swartzentruber and Chris Swisher; Middle School East – Brian Antrim and Dave Palguta; Middle School South – Bobbie Browning and Mike Browning; Middle School West – Jeannette Frioni, Wendy Roberts and Sherri Zynda, Blacklick – James Heider, Sandy Nicholson and Ed Thomas, Chapelfield – Lynzee Waddle, Karen Hammond and Kelly Dunick; Goshen – Mary Beth Powell; Highpoint – Rachel Bauman and Bethany Rak; Jefferson – Lindsay Condon and Liz Jaffee; Lincoln – Sarah Hanson and Dawn Stanforth; Royal Manor – Shanna Mann, Kristi Vanderkemp and Maggie Wright; Preschool – Jordy Deptowicz and Erica Shearer; Related Services - DeeAnna Conley Stemple and Kate Dudenhoeffer.

Teaching is ~~Not~~ Political

By Dwayne Marshall and Joan Miller

Perhaps it was a favorite teacher or a favorite class. Or, maybe it was a passion for inspiring learning or working with kids. Whatever the exact reason, we became teachers to educate and inspire future generations. We did not become teachers because of a desire to be political or to play the political games that seem to plague our current culture. Sadly, the reality is that we do have political jobs and we cannot afford to think we can ignore voting, laws, legislators, candidates and changes to legislation that affect our livelihood. We cannot ignore levies, as they remain the primary way we fund schools in Ohio. We cannot ignore that legislators continue to make decisions about funding at the state and federal level. We cannot ignore our local politicians who write legislation that determines student assessments and graduation requirements. We cannot ignore that they also control our license renewal procedures, our teacher evaluation requirements, our Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators, our minimum hours in the classroom, and our Collective Bargaining Rights, which protect our ability to bargain for our salaries and other due process protections afforded us by our contract.

We also cannot ignore the fact that the vast majority of politicians are crafting legislation based on little to no actual understanding of the intricacies of our jobs. Most have a vague recollection of school based on their memories. We have all heard the joke that everyone knows how to be a teacher since we've all been to school. Joking aside, those memories and preconceived notions are not set in the schools we work in today. Furthermore, we cannot ignore that most professions have experts in their field that craft the rules and best practices but we have legislators authoring laws with no real understanding of their effect on teachers, students and families. Because of this, we live in a country that tells our society that public schools are failing. This is NOT true. Although our test scores as a whole on standardized tests often place the US in the middle to bottom of the pack, this is not the complete story. In America, we educate the masses regardless of family support, previous educational attainment, test scores, and most importantly socioeconomic level. We know that scores don't tell the whole story, but our politicians act as if it does and we as teachers need to continue to set them straight.

For this and many other reasons, we cannot ignore the reality that our jobs are political. Although we didn't ask for the job to be political, we are constantly battling politicians on issues such as changing OTES and RESSA. We continue the fight of over-testing our students. Because we cannot ignore this and many other realities of our profession, we can no longer go into our classrooms, close the door and say, "I want to keep politics out of my profession." We are teachers but we have political jobs.

From your GJEA Officers – Relax, Rest, Rejuvenate- you are awesome and we look forward to serving you next year. Have a Great Summer! The next Advocate will be mailed to you in August, so please make sure your address is updated with Lindsay Dexter, our membership chair.