

Subject: TEA MEMBER COMMUNICATION FROM YOUR PRESIDENT!

Troy Education Association Communication

2016-2017 - #2

Important Updates and News:

1. **Professional Development: September 28th, October 26th and March 15th - Elementary**

The schedule for the September 28th professional development session does not reflect the accurate amount of time elementary teachers are supposed to have for travel time to the PD sessions and a lunch period. Elementary teachers will be short ten minutes. The PD sessions on the three designated PD half days are scheduled for a full three hours. In order to maintain this duration of professional development, in conjunction with busing schedule constraints and contractual work day requirements, it is necessary to reduce travel time and lunch periods by ten minutes on each of the PD half days. The Association has signed a letter of agreement with the TSD that acknowledges the loss of this time by finding suitable compensation elsewhere in the school calendar.

The Letter of Agreement states:

The elementary fall conference schedule will be modified on Thursday, November 18, 2016 as follows:

- *Early Start Elementary Schools 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 – 7:50 p.m.*
- *Late Start Elementary Schools 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:20 p.m.*

On the professional development days outlined above, teachers will be permitted to leave at the close of the student day. Those teachers with after-school Schedule C responsibilities will still be required to fulfill their duties on these days.

The accumulated loss of thirty minutes on September 28th, October 26th and March 15th is restored by reducing the contractual conference times appropriately on the final day of fall conferences. All elementary teachers will have ample "slots" available to them to meet with all their students' parents even after this adjustment.

2. Medical Insurance Committee

The TEA Medical Insurance Committee has met to begin the process of reviewing quotes for medical insurance coverage from various companies. The District has received the quotes and will be presenting the results to the committee soon. The TEA Medical Insurance Committee will review the quotes and make recommendations to the TEA Bargaining Team and Executive Board. Should a change of providers be recommended, the membership would vote on the question. This process will be completed by the end of October. Any adopted change would take effect on January 1, 2017.

Insurance open enrollment for the 2017 calendar year will begin in early November. It will be important for members to come to informational meetings on medical insurance options. Everyone can benefit from understanding the ever-changing insurance landscape.

3. Professional Negotiations Study Committee (PNSC)

This is a bargaining year. Each building needs to designate one or more members to represent their building's interests on the TEA Professional Negotiations Study Committee. This committee is currently chaired by Patrick Koneval (Smith) and Scott Gibbons (THS). Please consider serving on this vital committee. The PNSC establishes the issues that will be bargained by the TEA Bargaining Team by gathering member information through various sources including a survey development. Contact either Patrick or Scott about your interest to represent your building on this committee. Our first meeting is Friday, October 14, at 4:30 in the Smith Middle School Media Center.

4. Bargaining Team

Applications for the 2016 TEA Bargaining Team can be found on the TEA website (<http://www.troyeducationassociation.org/>). Please consider applying for a position on this team. Applications are due by October 18th. Please send all applications to teaprez@yahoo.com.

5. New Teacher Gathering

The Association is hosting a new teacher happy hour at the Steelhouse Tavern on Thursday, October 6th. The event is scheduled to begin at 3:30 and end at a later time. Please consider accompanying that new teacher in your department/grade level/building to this celebration. New teachers will have an opportunity to get to know all of us better and to win prizes as they drink their favorite beverage and munch on some great Steelhouse appetizers.

6. MEA Workshop Opportunities at the SODA Office

The following workshops are being offered this school year through the MEA SODA office. Posters will be added to the TEA website and forwarded to building representatives to post on your building's TEA bulletin board in the staff lounge. If you would like to attend one or all of these workshops contact Rob Brish at rbrish@mea.org to reserve a spot.

Lathrup Village MEA Office:

Building Rep. Training – October 10, 2016, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Student Loan Training – October 11, 2016, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Social Media Training – October 18, 2016, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Retirement Training – January 12, 2017, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Teacher Certification Training – TBA, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Student Loan Training – March 2, 2017, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Retirement Training – March 9, 2017, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Social Media Training – March 22, 2017, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Teacher Certification Training – TBA, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Baby Workshop – March 14, 2017, 5:00PM – 6:30PM

Please go to our TEA website (<http://www.troyeducationassociation.org/>) to see all of the important information is available to you as a member of this great organization. If you have any questions please give me a call. My number is 248-520-3962. I look forward to seeing folks at the October 6th New Teacher Gathering at the Steelhouse Tavern.

Tony