

Well, we are well into the 2017-2018 school year.

I'm excited to tell you about some of the action happening in our Association this school year.

The OEA's Compensation and Benefits committee will continue to meet the third Wednesday of the month. The Comp & Benefits team advises the OEA Negotiations TEAM as they work to secure the best possible Master Agreement for all OPS Educators. The OEA has determined the following priorities to guide their work:

- Ensure that classroom teachers play a central role in district educational improvement through collaboration with the district involving the design and implementation of curriculum, instruction and assessment.
- Advocate for teacher ownership of our professional growth and development.
- Advance the professional and economic interests of OPS educators by exploring new venues to discuss improvement of teaching and learning.
- Utilize every opportunity for interest-based collective bargaining and collaborative problem-solving approaches.
- Continue to serve OPS educators through high quality timely assistance, representation and advocacy in schools and throughout the district.

I am pleased to report that the OEA, the OPS School Board, and the Omaha Schools Foundation are working in partnership to provide assistance for the Houston Independent School District. Donations can be made through the OPSF website <https://www.omahaschoolsfoundation.org/spotlight-news/150-harvey-relief-fund>. This partnership clearly demonstrates that the union, the OPS Board and the superintendent can work in a united effort for the common good.

I believe in respecting the professional judgement of educators. OEA is the voice for educators. I believe that teachers, and educators should determine the decisions of education. Your voice is so important. So many decisions will be made this school year: a new contract, a new superintendent, and school board races in districts 2, 4, 6, & 8. The Nebraska Legislative decisions will continue to directly impact every one of us, professionally and personally. In addition, all the regular work of education will need our voices.

How do you make your voice matter? Show up, get involved, be informed, and vote. The Political Action Committee of the OEA meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Decision are made by the members of this committee\*. Our other committees meet to work on instructional advocacy, membership, benefits, ethnic minority concerns, social justice, governing the association, just to name a few.

OEA members serve on the Common Grading Committee and are integral in representing the informed judgment of the teachers and educators of the district. The OEA meets regularly with the CIS Department. It is through the work of the early childhood educators and the Association that Early Childhood Teachers now have extra days to complete the work mandated by federal and state law. We will continue to cultivate our relationships with Human Resources as well as the Executive Directors. We educators of OPS are committed to our students and families. The members of the OEA lead the way in the education of our schools.

Check out <http://omahaoea.org/calendar/> to find the team you want to join, or contact me at [bridget.donovan@nsea.org](mailto:bridget.donovan@nsea.org)

In Solidarity,  
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