



AR Updates, BoE Information and OEA Events

Colleagues-

I wanted to get out a few updates to you as quickly as possible. Know that one thing that has been certain during this pandemic is that change continues to happen. So, what I was told today more than likely will change in the coming weeks.

Safety continues to be on the forefront of all we do. This means that you need to follow the safety measures. This means during your lunch time, limit the number of staff members sharing one table or location. Don't have a potluck or share food. You are entitled to a duty-free lunch, but your administrator has the right to keep all employees safe and can request the grouping of staff members to disperse during lunch.

Thanks to the AR's who attended the meeting yesterday. If you did not get the link to the meeting, we have not received the results of the building election. Please get them to the office so that we can update our records. [Click here](#) for the AR documents. There were many questions that were shared, and we have received further information from the district.

- Evaluation Status- The NDE has final say on pushing evaluations back and have yet to send a directive to the district. They are still proceeding accordingly. Principals were given the rubric that was not amended and told that they may need to evaluate in different ways. Observations may look different. Principals may sit in the room with the teacher and/or then attend virtually.
- Progress Reports- OEA shared the concern on the use of the reports and questioned how valid they would be during this time. The district stated that teachers should talk with their administrators on the status and how best to address it.
- Children at work with parent- If you are a teacher who has been asked to

complete an assessment with a student on a one to one basis, your own children cannot be in attendance on that day. The district is following the safety measures that have been identified.

- Sub Training- Substitutes are trained asynchronously; an email was sent out to them with the steps to follow to receive the training. The district does not have a dedicated device that is used in every building to train on. Building leadership should identify a system to assist substitutes on the technological side of teaching.

OPS BoE Workshop

We are roughly 4 weeks away from the beginning of the second quarter. The district must begin to anticipate what school will look like and the steps to follow for a safe return. The information that was shared is a staggered/phased approach and NOTHING is finalized. The district is starting a dialogue to determine the best step forward.

- The district has the desire to have a 5-day instruction for students but is unclear on what that potentially looks like.
- Concurrently Teaching- It is a complex problem that is not a sustainable solution to our current situation. OEA has requested that we be a part of that discussion as they are beginning to look at how it will look and the workload. Concurrent teaching is happening in Lincoln and Millard Public Schools where the workload for staff is huge and burn out is taking place. OEA strongly opposes any steps in making staff teach concurrently. We have already offered ways to address the desire to have a 5-day instruction.
- It was stated numerous times that the expectation of teachers to do this is great. Your workload continues to increase, and you are doing the best you can. OPS is asking the teachers to change plans rapidly and to make sure the continuity of instruction remains.
- Students who attend JP Lord will be returning to the building around September 14th. Safety measures are being implemented and UNMC has been recommending additional steps for all. The proper PPE will be offered to the staff prior to students arriving.
- Your building should be cleaned nightly, disinfected and ionized. This is the time to make sure the plan that is visualized, works. If it doesn't adjustments need to be made. To make sure your room has been ionized, a safe residue/film is left on the flat surface. This is SAFE, if needed wipe the surface down if you are uncomfortable seeing it. Custodial staff will not be asked to wipe surfaces down after ionizing is completed. If this is not happening, please talk with your administrator to let them know. This must be followed for the safety of students and staff and it is a district mandate.

OEA COMMITTEES

All meetings will be via ZOOM starting at 4:45. If you are interested you need to reach out to Robert to get the link for the designated meeting.

- 9/1 Membership
- 9/9 Comp/Benefits
- 9/15 IA
- 9/16 PCR

- 9/17 EMAC
- 9/30 PACE

AR Trainings

We have two additional training sessions for Association Representatives on September 19 from 9-10:30 and September 23 from 5-6:30. If you haven't yet attended an AR training, please register

here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHHExwnIT5scvProoI1ANvKUL8uPUcHlzTlz0LX-FPYasINw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Your VOICE, Your VOTE!

Omaha-area educators are invited to attend a drive-through candidate yard-sign pick up event on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 11a.m. to 2 p.m. on S. 57th Street. You will be able to register to vote, join the OEA/NSEA/NEA and get some union swag. Come out and support your favorite candidates.

Continue to follow the safety measures. Teachers are social, enjoy being around our colleagues and welcome conversation. However, we must follow the social distance guidelines. Be the professionals that lead by example and maintain a safe distance from one another.

We have work to do in the coming weeks. There are still many unanswered questions, including questions that have yet to be identified. If you have question, concern or suggestion, please let me know and we will address them. OEA continues to address the concerns that are shared, seek additional information and offer solutions the problems we address.

I know you are working as hard as you can and going amazing things. Remember to take one day at a time, continue to be great and breathe!

Be well,

Robert

