



Colleagues,

I know your time is extremely valuable, so I'll get right to the updates.

**Survey Update:** Thank you to those who filled out the survey. We had roughly 45% of members respond. The information we gathered will assist the negotiation team as they prepare for negotiations.

**Facebook Updates:** Please like the Facebook page "Omaha-I Stand With Teachers." We will regularly post information there to keep you updated. Note that the "I Stand with Teachers" FB page is an open page--both members, nonmembers, and community members can view the page.

**Snow Days/Inclement Weather Days:** I'm sure most of you have assumed with our 1:1 technology initiative, snow days will look differently for staff and students this school year. When the district announces a snow day, it will be identified as an Inclement Weather Day. OPS' initial proposal for how Inclement Weather Days would be scheduled was discussed at the most recent OEA board meeting. The board collectively decided that revisions to the proposal are needed, and we are continuing our discussions with the district. We will update you as soon as plans are determined. Students and staff should be taking your devices home daily.

**WORKLOAD:**

OEA is addressing workload issues with the district. We are still finalizing the details but have reached agreement on several issues.

- **ELEMENTARY GRADE LEVEL MEETINGS** will be reduced to no more than 1 per month through December 2020. This will not apply to schools with extended teacher hours such as Kennedy and Wakonda.

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL TEAM MEETINGS**-The district agreed to eliminate one team meeting per week. We continue to work on further reducing the number of team meetings.
- **HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT MEETINGS** will be reduced to no more than 1 per month through December 2020.
- **CONTENT and PACING GUIDE:** Instruction must be given on grade level standards utilizing the district's guaranteed and viable curriculum. It is understood that many factors impact the actual pacing. Teachers will not be held to pacing standards during this time. All students must be instructed using the curriculum provided.

**Opportunity:** Your survey results indicated that voicing your concerns to the school board is something OEA could assist you with. OEA is holding an event to assist our members with how to communicate with the School Board. It is set for Wednesday, November 11th from 7:00-7:30, ahead of OPS' next Board of Education meeting November 16th at 6:30. Please register by emailing [lorrie.krejci@nsea.org](mailto:lorrie.krejci@nsea.org) .

**COVID Updates:** The number of cases of community spread is increasing. The district holds regular discussions with district partners (Nebraska Medicine, Douglas County Health) and impacted school leaders to use best practices in responding to affected buildings and classrooms. Discussions include the number of cases that are "active," "symptomatic" and "exposed" at every building.

Clearly, our elected officials need to offer solutions far greater than those that have been identified.

Until they do, the OEA continues fighting to address safety, equitable workloads, plan time and evaluations. We hear you and are tirelessly working to get things addressed. We encourage you to continue reaching out with your concerns and questions.

We all need to do our part. It is important that if your classroom moves to remote learning or you are on leave due to an exposure, that you stay home and follow the prescribed protocol. As cases rise in our community, keep yourself safe by assuming everyone you encounter has either been exposed or is positive. Please protect yourself!

You have done a remarkable job during this incredibly challenging time.

We are advocating for each one of you.

Be well,

Robert  
OEA President

