



Colleagues,

I have heard from many of you on how the “Remote Learning Days” have gone, and you have provided valuable data to support our position. The OEA has asked the district for a meeting to go over the plan as it has been on repeat for the last three days. We have used the cycle day one as an example and the delivery of instruction to ask for a change in the plan. The district has yet to confirm a date for this meeting.

Frontline

In the midst of calling for a remote learning day, the district identified the day as an ‘Inservice Day’ on Frontline which requires no substitute. Normally, when a substitute is needed it triggers notification to the substitutes of a job to be filled. Not limiting staff to not take a sick or personal day, but to address the need for devices for subs. The district does not have access to give devices to all substitutes. Yet, this would fall on building administration to have covered the absence.

Data Collected

Thank you to those completed the survey. There were 1,197 responses for the 1/25 survey. 61.21% stated that the day went smoothly to very smoothly. Of the obstacles that were faced, connectivity and interruptions from students’ home and teachers’ home ranked the highest. 53 pages of comments were received and are being looked at to identify a trend. This will assist in our discussions with the district on the best way to move forward from having a remote learning day on repeat for three consecutive days.

Info on SNOW DAYS

Many have suggested that there are five snow days in our contracted days and if we are working during the snow days, we should end our school year earlier. That is inaccurate, we are contracted and paid for 188 days. The reason why some may think snow days are wrapped into our contracted days is because it is the number of instructional minutes we have in our days. The Nebraska Department of Education

sets the number of minutes, OPS is far beyond that required minutes. Thus, snow days when used in the past never extended the year. Can the district decrease the number of minutes to be more in line with the NDE? Highly doubtful.

Vaccine

OEA has not been informed on when educators will receive the vaccination but recommends if you fall within any of the categories that have been identified to take advantage of the opportunity. The Douglas County Health department notified the district, who in turn notified OEA that Counselors and JP Lord Staff could receive the vaccination. The identified staff have already been notified. When you get the call, please work with your building administration to provide you time to go get the vaccine. This is not a mandatory ask, purely voluntary. However, if you pass on the opportunity, you will then go to the back of the line before another chance to receive it.

Contract Ratification

The OEA and OPS negotiation teams have reached a 'tentative agreement.' OEA held two Q & A sessions to discuss the 'TA.' If you were not able to join us, please watch the recorded sessions. Those can be found by **[CLICKING HERE](#)**. The agreement is a 2-year agreement, with the first year being a 4.67% increase and the second year being a 4.57% increase. Some additional language changes, health insurance options and plan time adjustments also being made. **ONLY OEA MEMBERS** will vote to ratify. An email will be sent out to your SCHOOL email address with a survey link to click. Once you click on the link it will take you to one question to answer either YES or NO to ratify. The voting window will be open from 8:00am on Thursday, January 28 and will close on Saturday, January 30th at 5:00 pm. Membership will be informed of the results Saturday evening. Remember to only vote only before or after school.

Never forget how lucky your students are to have you as their teacher!

Be safe,

Robert
OEA President
