



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

# Tip-Off

October 11, 2021

## School Board Contact Teams(SBCT)



OEA is seeking strong advocates for the School Board Contact Team.

Teams are given OEA positions on selected topics to share with your assigned School Board Buddy. Two OEA members are assigned to each Board member, and you will meet with your Board buddy together.

This is your chance to talk directly to a School Board and share concerns on behalf of the Association and your colleagues. The School Board Contact teams make a difference.

**If you are interested in participating, contact:**  
Robert Miller at [robert.miller@nsea.org](mailto:robert.miller@nsea.org) or  
Becca Dingwell at [becca.dingwell@nsea.org](mailto:becca.dingwell@nsea.org)

## Check Your PAYSTUB!

Just a reminder to check your paystub every month to ensure you are being paid correctly. Errors have been found in the past, so take the time to look. Call the payroll office if there's a discrepancy.



## ESP Corner

Bilingual Liaisons should receive back pay in the October 15 paycheck. Be sure to check your rate of pay against the contract and the documents sent to you during ratification. If you find an error, or have questions, please email

[elizabeth.figueroa@nsea.org](mailto:elizabeth.figueroa@nsea.org).

Open enrollment for health insurance changes will be in November. Watch your school email for more information. If you are interested in changing to an alternate network plan, be sure to view the informational video at 2021 OPS Insurance Educational Session - YouTube.

Your membership is about more than just pay and benefits. If you haven't already visited <https://www.neamb.com/>, be sure to visit and check out all the benefits of membership.

## 2021/2022 Committee Meetings

**All meetings @ 4:45pm via Zoom**

(Reach out to the Office to get the zoom link for the various meetings.)

- 10/14 Governance
- 10/19 PACE
- 10/20 Membership
- 10/21 PCR
- 10/21 Comp/Benefits
- 10/27 Retirement
- 10/28 EMAC
- 10/28 NewGEN
- 11/2 Instructional Advocacy

# 2021/2022 OEA Committees:

Meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice. Your Committee Chairs will have the link, please reach out to them to receive the link and additional information from the committee. All links will be sent out the day before the meeting to those who are on the email list from last year and those who have contacted the office to let us know what committee they are interested in.



- **Instructional Advocacy** - Meets 1st Tuesday of the Month

The committee will work to improve the instructional environment for all students and teachers in a proactive and advocating manner. They will work with the ProCom to address concerns that are brought forward from both the District and OEA.

Contact: Meeghan Hartfield- [ma\\_hartfield@yahoo.com](mailto:ma_hartfield@yahoo.com)

- **Governance** - Meets 2nd Thursday of the Month

This committee is responsible for the governing functions of the OEA, takes action to amend bylaws and policies of the board and association; is responsible for the administration of elections.

Contact: Shannon Heng- [Shannon.heng@outlook.com](mailto:Shannon.heng@outlook.com)

- **Political Action Committee for Education (PACE)** - Meets 3rd Tuesday of the Month

The PACE Committee will develop, train and implement Legislative and School Board Contact Teams, handle interviews for area districts and make recommendations. Attend appropriate functions with state senators and school board members.

Contact: Marianne Dysart- [mariannedysart@gmail.com](mailto:mariannedysart@gmail.com)

- **Membership** - Meets 3rd Wednesday of the Month

This committee will develop, promote and conduct the membership drives and New Teacher activities to increase and maintain active membership in the OEA.

Contact: Megan Moderow- [mmoderow@gmail.com](mailto:mmoderow@gmail.com)

- **Compensation and Benefits** - Meets 3rd Thursday of the Month

This committee will coordinate and promote member education and communication regarding bargaining, train and develop negotiation team, conduct bargaining research and provide a regular report of progress towards accomplishing the goals to the OEA Board of Directors.

Contact: Diana Casey - [dpowerwoman@hotmail.com](mailto:dpowerwoman@hotmail.com) and Lee Perez - [leemartinperez@gmail.com](mailto:leemartinperez@gmail.com)

- **Professional and Community Relations (PCR)** - Meets 3rd Thursday of the Month

This committee will work to maintain community involvement and activities for the association and its members. Will work with OEA staff to develop a program for Laurel's night and seek member participation on activities.

Contact: Tracy Weatherly- [weatheta@cox.net](mailto:weatheta@cox.net)

- **Retirement** - Meets 4th Wednesday of the Month

This committee will review OSERS and monitor the transition board activities and changes, provide workshops for OEA members on retirement planning.

Contact: Faith Johnson- [faithteaches22@yahoo.com](mailto:faithteaches22@yahoo.com)

- **Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC)** - Meets 4th Thursday of the Month

This committee will develop and implement strategies to involve more minorities in the work of the OEA/NSEA/NEA. Identify, encourage and assist in the election of minority members in positions of leadership. Also anything that brings the concerns of minority teachers to light where they may be overlooked.

Contact: Terrell Matthews- [tleemathews@gmail.com](mailto:tleemathews@gmail.com)

- **NewGEN** - Meets 4th Thursday of the Month

If you are in the first 7 years of your teaching career, this committee is for you. This committee will plan events that are geared towards the needs of the early career educators. A place where you can share your successes and ask for advice on how to address specific things.

Contact: Christian Schuerman- [Christian.schuerman@gmail.com](mailto:Christian.schuerman@gmail.com)

## Fall is Here, Winter is Near, Time Now to Plan!

Fall is here and you've finally begun to settle into a routine at work and home. But you're also noticing some kids are starting to act up and maybe you've even noticed you're struggling to maintain momentum.

Between lesson-planning, grading and parent teacher conferences, you may be feeling a bit maxed out, but the Holidays will be here before you even notice. Whether you're looking for ways to start prepping for holiday travel and shopping, or you need tips on retirement planning, NEAMB.com has tips and advice to help you make it to Winter Break. Consider:

- Protecting yourself and your family is so important we have a new section of our site dedicated to helping you figure out how. Learn how to protect the Moments that Matter, myths about life insurance, and more resources to make sure everyone is taken care of:

[www.neamb.com/protect](http://www.neamb.com/protect)

- If you're planning to save time and money by doing holiday shopping online, make sure to learn how to do so safely. During National Cybersecurity Month we're going to have the information you need to make sure you are safe and secure online. Find this and more at:

[www.neamb.com/finance](http://www.neamb.com/finance)

- Winter is coming, so make sure your car is ready by checking out our Car Care Checklist. We also have information on the NEA Auto Buying Program, just in time for the end of the model year so that you can get the best possible deal out there. Learn more at:

[www.neamb.com/car](http://www.neamb.com/car)

- Have you made sure you're saving everything you need so that you're able to enjoy your retirement when that time comes? Run the numbers on our Retirement calculators and read more about how to boost your savings by investing outside of your pension. Learn more at:

[www.neamb.com/retirement](http://www.neamb.com/retirement)



### Student in NEED?



## Contact the NSEA CHILDREN'S FUND

Where there is a child in need, there is likely a teacher willing to help by opening their wallet. With many teachers already on limited budgets, filling each and every student need just isn't possible.

Our members see children who go without coats in winter weather, who come to school in the same clothes every day and who can't see the whiteboard because they lack much-needed vision care.

That's why the NSEA Children's Fund was created. Since 1994, donors to the Children's Fund have provided close to \$1 million to help children in need – to buy them clean clothes, mittens, warm hats and shoes without holes in them, or to pay for eye doctor and dentist appointments. Donors have even purchased public bus passes for students when they had no other way to get to school.

During the pandemic in 2020, the NSEA Board of Directors, along with NSEA-Retired, directed a combined \$60,000 to food banks serving all 93 Nebraska counties to help reach students and families who needed meals.

Contributions to the Children's Fund are tax-deductible, and every penny goes to help children. NSEA covers the administrative costs out of its own budget.

Local associations are encouraged to host fundraisers and challenge other associations to contribute to the fund. For more information, to make a donation or to request help for a child in need, call 1-800-742-0047 or go to [nsea.org/childrensfund](http://nsea.org/childrensfund).



# Conferences 101



## Five tips for great PT conferences

### Lay the groundwork

Conferences shouldn't be the first time you communicate with parents. Make contact with them consistently about positive things beforehand, so there's already a relationship. Send a survey to parents before conferences to find out what they want to talk about, or have students fill out self-evaluations and talk with the student about their responses as the first step to creating a plan to resolve a problem.

### Accentuate the positive

Parents don't want to hear a bunch of negatives about their child. While teachers must be honest when they have real concerns, it's best to frame them in terms of working collaboratively to arrive at solutions rather than listing missed assignments and behavior problems. One way to send the message that you're on the same team is to have parents sit next to you at a table instead of across from you at your desk.

### Be specific

Instead of trying to cover everything, have a set idea of specific topics to talk about. That might mean a deep dive into the report card with all parents, or a different topic for each, depending on the needs of the child. In either case, have specific examples of student work to illustrate your point.

### Clarify, don't mystify

Make sure parents have a clear grasp on the terminology. Avoid education-specific acronyms and jargon like "IEP," "SLD," and "malleable intelligence" unless you're sure that parents will understand what you mean. Use conferences to dispel myths or misconceptions about education.

### Follow up

Parent-teacher conferences are most effective if they're not a one-off event, but instead part of a larger relationship with parents. Give parents tasks to complete with their child when they go home. Ask them to come up with goals for the school year together, or to take home student portfolios and write questions and comments for their children to continue the discussion.

## NSEA Webinars

Professional Development sessions are being offered to our members.  
If you would like to get something offered, please let me know.  
Here is a list of the current offerings.

Go to [www.nsea.org/PDforMembers](http://www.nsea.org/PDforMembers)  
to register for any and more  
professional developments.



- **Wednesday 10/13** 6:30 Budgeting and 7:30 Financial Planning (Preretirement) Series
- **Thursday 11/4** 7:30 Member Benefits -Planning the perfect Vacation
- **Tuesday 11/9** 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 Student Loan Forgiveness, navigator, and budgeting
- **Monday 11/15** 6:30 Budgeting and 7:30 Financial Planning (Preretirement) Series
- **Thursday 12/2** 6:30 Budgeting and 7:30 Financial Planning (Preretirement) Series
- **Tuesday 12/7** 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 Student Loan Forgiveness, navigator, and budgeting
- **Thursday 12/16** 7:30 DA 101

### OEA Tip-Off

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

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