



## **The Results Are In!**

The members of the Omaha Education Association have ratified the contract. Of all the votes cast, 86% voted to approve. What does it mean moving forward? It means that over the next three years members of the bargaining unit will see \$7200 added to the base salary and trickle through the salary schedule, pay less of their health care premiums, get paid more for extra duties, stipends and some increments. Yay us!

Is there work still to be done? YES. The OEA is committed to working through the issues that we were unable to accomplish in this cycle of negotiations – most notably early childhood and elementary plan time and additional support for special education across the board. The OEA knows these are hot topic issues and I am working diligently to keep them at the forefront as we move into the new school year. These are two areas where grassroots organizing will be needed to move the needle.

An additional one is getting coverage pay for members of the bargaining unit that are not classroom teachers. We worked hard on this and lost, but we are not quitting. There will be a chance to organize to stay tuned.

Discussions are already taking place with the district and members of the school board. There are a lot of options and opportunities to solve these complex problems. The OEA will continue to bring solutions to the table and push for action.

Here is some other information as we move from February into March:

## **General Elections**

There have been issues regarding the elections. I am working with all parties involved to solve these issues. Please know the errors made regarding the ballots were nothing that the OEA did. It is the fault of the ballot company UNANIMOUS, and I am working with them to find a reasonable and fair solution. If you believe you have received an incorrect ballot, please email me ([michelle.settlemyer@nsea.org](mailto:michelle.settlemyer@nsea.org)). UNANIMOUS uses information provided by the NSEA. If you have changed names, positions, grade levels, buildings or emails you may have received an incorrect ballot or no ballot. It is recommended that you reach out to the NSEA and inform them of any changes to your status. The election window will close Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 5:00pm

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Building Administrators are given the option to work with their school community to identify what works best for them, including a virtual option. How and when conferences happen may vary from building to building. Work with your building administrators and ARs to find that solution. Your AR captains are supposed to be part of this decision making process.

## **Day of Action**

On Tuesday, March 14, 2023, the OEA and Lincoln Education Association will be going to the state capitol to speak with legislators about proposed bills that will impact public education. The OEA will provide transportation to and from Lincoln. Please use the following link to register for the event [OEA Legislative Day of Action - March 14, 2023](#). The schedule of events may be viewed at the bottom of the this message

## **Student Advocacy**

Educational Rights Counsel (ERC) and the Omaha Education Association will once again be hosting two workshops to gain valuable information to advocate for you and your students in the classroom. The February meeting has been canceled. The next opportunity will be Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center at UNO from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. A light breakfast will be provided starting at 8:30am. Use the following link to register for the event: [Protecting Your Students: Successful Advocacy in Tough Times](#). You may view the handout here: [Successful Student Advocacy](#)

## **Retirement Workshop**

The OEA has tentatively scheduled another workshop to be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, from 6:30pm-7:30pm. In the workshop, you will learn valuable information regarding sick days, insurance, and other key pieces of information. If you attended either the January or February workshop you are more than welcome to attend this one as well. There is a lot of information to process when making this decision. The workshop will be done virtually through ZOOM. Please check back next week for the registration link and handout. In the meantime, place March 28, 2023, 6:30pm, on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you.

## **Resignations**

The state statute deadline for submitting your letter of resignation is April 15, 2023. OPS has extended that deadline until the close of business (5:00pm) on April 28, 2023. If you are considering resigning it is imperative you have your letter in by the deadline. Anytime after that the district does not have to accept your resignation and may file a Professional Practice Claim (PPC) with the Nebraska Department of Education. Should you submit your letter of resignation prior to the deadline, and change your mind, you may rescind that letter by reaching out to HR.

In closing, should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to the OEA. Kathie, Liz, and I are here for you. We want to assist you in working through those tough issues you may encounter. The OEA is only as strong as its membership, and I would say we are getting stronger each day. Continue to do great things with your students, find personal time for yourself and eat dessert first.

In Solidarity,  
Michelle

# Day of ACTION

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2023**



## TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 8:00 AM, BUS LEAVES FROM OEA
- 9:15 AM, NSEA BRIEFING
- 10:00 AM, TIME AT CAPITOL
- 11:45 AM, NSEA PROVIDED LUNCH
- 12:45 PM, TIME AT CAPITOL
- 3:00 PM, DEPART BACK TO OMAHA

**SCAN QR TO SIGN UP!**



**Any questions? Email [wesjensen86@gmail.com](mailto:wesjensen86@gmail.com)**

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