



PCT PLEDGE

Plainview-Old Bethpage
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Volume XXXXVII No. 4 November 22, 2010



UPDATE

By PCT President Morty Rosenfeld

So much has been going on at the PCT that I want to devote this column to making sure our membership understands the many things we have been working on.

APPR

Most of you know that we have been working on negotiating the new Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) and related matters with Central Office since the summer, hoping to get at least most of it done before we have to start the regular negotiations. That work is continuing and has broadened in scope.

At the November PCT Executive Board meeting, the Officers recommended and the Board approved the following people to work with the members of their departments on recommendations to the Negotiating Committee on how the new APPR should deal with the evaluation of special area teachers. In many areas, an officer or a member of the Executive Board has been appointed to lead the work.

Speech Robin Glick
Maureen Kenney

Library Kathy Abbene
Beth Dennis

Psychologist/ Michele Price
Social Workers Betty Iannotti

Guidance Joe Izzo
Neil Lasher
Irene Petrsonic

Special Ed. Nina Melzer
Cindy McNamara
Justin Carey
Eileen Leavitt
Nancy Klein
Diane Deluca

Phys.Ed./ Matt Gentile
Dance Jodi Horowitz
Jason Goodstone

Music Renee Ashley
DeeDee Edwards

Art/Tech/ Lori Courtesis
Careers Warren Jacobson

Reading Dawn DeMatteo

ESL Ruth Lazarus

Chinese Rosemary Firestone

The charge of these groups is to suggest at least two (2) multiple measures to tie 40% of a teacher's evaluation in these areas to the growth or achievement of the students in their classes. They are expected to make their recommendations by January.

For "non-special area" teachers, we are going to have to come up with multiple measures of student performance for 20% of the APPR for those who teach classes in which there is a state assessment and 40% for those where there is no state assessment. Teachers in this category should brainstorm ideas with their colleagues and send their suggestions to the Negotiating Committee at pobctorg@pobct.org.

In addition to the APPR issue, we have also been working very hard to try to find good solutions to the problem of too many children being pulled out too often from elementary classrooms for good education to exist. While we say that such and such student is in a teacher's class, that is too often not the case; the child is frequently out of the teacher's classroom more than she is in. PCT animated 4th grade teacher Ms. Richards puts it something like this on the PCT webpage. "It's bad enough that so many kids are out of my room so often. Now the State of New York wants to evaluate me on what these students don't know." That's essentially how crazy things have gotten.

Members who have ideas on how best to curtail the number of elementary pull-outs are asked to share them with their building Head SRC Rep. The officers have been meeting with the Head reps to come up with a plan. It is their sense, that administration, the Board of Education, teachers and parents are ready for a bold move on this issue.

We have also been working on plans for our 50th anniversary celebration. It's beginning to look like Thursday, May 5th will be the date for our party, but that and our other plans will be finalized at the meeting of our Anniversary Committee on December 14.

Your officers and I have been spending considerable time thinking about our upcoming negotiations on economic and working condition issues. I don't need to tell you that we will be doing so in one of the worst climates that I can remember. Increased pension costs, Empire premiums increasing very significantly, the county throwing the cost of correcting valid claims for the overpayment of property taxes onto the school districts' balance sheets, and above all an economically fearful populace that resents the gains we have made through our union.

Somehow, we'll make it come out alright. We've been challenged before. Sticking together, we've never failed to meet any test.

Finally, I've been troubled by how hurtful many of the members find the comments on the Averyplainview Blog. While I have no idea how many people read it, I have taken to responding to some of the anti-teacher, anti-union comments there. Some readers of the blog have responded by welcoming my comments and ideas. I don't pretend to be able to stop the spewing of anti-teacher venom that is sometimes there, but at least our point of view is there to counter much of it.

POBLA MEETS ON NEGOTIATIONS

The PCT's Plainview-Old Bethpage Library Association held a general membership meeting on November 11 to discuss the expiration of their contract in June and what they looked to accomplish in the next round of negotiations.

While library negotiations were once characterized by pettiness and considerable hard feelings, in recent years, contracts have been rolled over leading to a harmonious workplace climate. POBLA members expressed their desire to keep things going in a positive direction. They asked Chief Negotiator Morty Rosenfeld to contact the library's attorney to explore the possibility of a fair and fast settlement.

BOARD OF ED OBDURATE NO LIBRARY CLERICALS UNTIL MONEY IN HAND

In light of the passage of the federal legislation to prevent the layoff of school personnel, the PCT pressed the Board of Education to restore the two library clerical positions cut from the budget. The officers presented the issue as an ethical one. The state has the federal money; it simply awaits a reconvening of the legislature to send the money to the school districts. The officers maintain waiting for the money is essentially no different than any money that we assume we will get from the state and budget for accordingly. The Board remained obdurate, however, with Board President Bettan saying, "When we get the money, we'll restore the positions."

Meanwhile the elementary libraries have been suffering with the effects of this decision. It turns out that a cut of two positions has a profound effect on the ability of the libraries to serve their schools.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND ADULT CHILDREN

The recently enacted federal health care legislation provides that children of holders of family health insurance can be covered until they reach age 26 **at no additional cost to their parents.**

If you are in need of this insurance for your child(ren), whether or not they reside with you, you need to enroll in the program before the new year. If you have misplaced the booklet that was sent to you by Empire, you can find a copy on the District's webpage along with the necessary enrollment form.

If you need health insurance for children who are over 26 but under 30, you can **purchase** Empire coverage for them. Again, details and an enrollment form are available at the District's webpage.

VOTE/COPE

November is PCT VOTE/COPE month, and we are more than half way through our drive. To date the PCT Office has received less than half the amount of last year's drive. The Officers of the PCT have expressed their hope that we would collect even more this year in that the political challenges before us are far greater than most of us have faced in our careers.

Governor-elect Cuomo has all but declared war on public employees; he and others are calling for a constitutional convention that could end the guarantee of our pensions, the property tax-cappers are alive and well in Albany, social security is again under attack and the public and their politicians seems to agree on only one thing - teachers are over-paid, are protected by seniority rules and tenure and have enormous pensions that are driving taxpayers broke.

The American political system runs on money. If we are to have a fighting chance of fighting back politically, teacher unions have to have money. It can't come from dues. It must come from the voluntary contributions of people like you. Looked at that way, members can't afford not to contribute to VOTE/COPE. Please make your generous contribution today.

LABOR HISTORY

On November 19, 1915, Joe Hill, labor leader and song writer, was executed in Utah on what many believe was a framed charge of murder. Before he died he declared: "Don't waste any time mourning. Organize."

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