



PCT PLEDGE

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GOING FORWARD

By PCT President Morty Rosenfeld

I'm hoping that in the next few days we can put contract and APPR negotiations behind us and begin several crucial union projects.

First among them is this November's elections. I'll begin with the presidential contest.

Anyone hearing me speak at union meetings or reading the things I've been writing knows that President Obama has come under very harsh criticism from me. I take issue with many of his policies, especially in the area of education. But, while it may be lamentable, we only have two candidates to pick from, and the Romney/Ryan ticket offers working people nothing but the continuing shift of income and wealth to America's economic elite.

While we may differ with Obama about how to improve the public schools, at least he believes in their existence and their centrality to a democratic society. And while Republicans malign the economic stimulus legislation, the fact of the matter is that thousands of people were kept employed as teachers, firemen, police and other civil servants for a two year period. While Romney would have let the auto industry go bankrupt, Obama's efforts saved that industry and the thousands of good paying union jobs that go with it.

Before the Congress at this moment is a bill that would put thousands of more people back to work in our schools and neighborhoods, building roads, repairing bridges and other decaying infrastructure. That legislation can't muster a single Republican vote. Romney/Ryan want to shrink government. That means shrinking us.

I'll talk about state elections in the next issue

of the *Pledge*.

SLO MEETINGS

Under the APPR regulations, subjects which do not end in state assessments must have created for them so-called Student Learning Objectives, better known by the ironic acronym SLOs. SLOs are supposed to be designed to show the growth of students over the course of the instructional year. Like the state assessments, they will be tied to 20% of a teacher's evaluation.

While as of this writing our district's APPR plan is not completed, we need to get the SLOs going so that we have a measure of student performance from the beginning of the year. **It is imperative that every member teaching a subject requiring a SLO participate in the writing of that instrument.** Central to the process of writing a SLO is establishing a realistic target for what students should know by the end of the year. **Keep in mind that the number of points out of 20 toward your APPR you get will be based on the percentage of your students who reached the target your SLO established. Clearly, target setting must be realistic.** The formula for translating student scores to teacher APPR points is one of the outstanding items in the PCT's negotiations with the district.

Meetings to create the SLOs should be completely participatory. They should be professional discussions that aim at coming to professional consensus. Members needing assistance with their work on SLOs are encouraged to call the PCT.

NEGOTIATIONS

Meeting dates have been established for the PCT and the District to complete the negotiations of both the new contract and the APPR. At the opening day meeting, PCT President Morty Rosenfeld expressed his confidence that the outstanding details would be quickly worked out.

Upon the completion of the negotiations, there will be a membership meeting of each of the PCT's bargaining units in the district at which the proposed contract will be explained. The members of each unit will be called upon to ratify their unit's agreement by a majority vote. Watch your letterbox for the announcement of your unit's membership meeting.

CAMPAIGN FOR SANE TESTING

Last year, the PCT began to organize to push back against the state's testocracy and its stultifying regimen of state assessments that is rapidly turning even higher performing school districts like ours into test prep institutions. PCT President Morty Rosenfeld, a member of the NYSUT Board of Directors, played a significant role in crafting a resolution overwhelmingly approved at the April NYSUT convention demanding a state testing program that supports instruction rather than one that is becoming the goal of teaching and learning. NYSUT leadership brought a similar resolution, also overwhelmingly passed, to the AFT convention this summer, putting our national organization in pushback mode on the issue of testing.

NYSUT is at work organizing its locals throughout the state in support of a sane testing regime. As part of the PCT effort, we are asking members to send us personal accounts of experiences they have had that illustrate the absurdity of the state's current testing program. We want to use the anecdotes in the materials we will be using to build the coalition of teachers, parents and administrators that will be necessary to turn the current mess around. Send your experiences to the pct at pobct@pobct.org.

PARTY TIME AGAIN

Each year the PCT holds a party to welcome our newest members to our ranks and to honor those who retired at the end of the last school year.

By popular demand, this year's party will be at the Four Food Studio in Melville. The menu will include the usual assortment of scrumptious appetizers along with an elaborate array of main courses and dessert. Included in the member price of \$25 is an

open bar for wine, beer or soda. There will be lots of dancing and very few speeches. Save the date - Thursday, October 18, 2012 from 4 to 7 P.M.

LANE CHANGES

PCT members are reminded that if they completed sufficient course work over the summer to advance a lane or more on the salary schedule, they need to inform the Personnel Office before September 10, 2012. So long as this notification is made, payment on the new lane is assured as soon as the official university transcript is received by the district.

INFORMATION CHANGES

If you have changed your home address, family status, e-mail address, phone number etc. over the summer, please let the PCT Office know immediately. This information is vital to processing your Welfare Fund claims and keeping you informed of union activities.

Also, SRC Reps will be canvassing their buildings collecting cell phone numbers. Ever seeking to have our communications as up to date as possible, the PCT is building the capacity to text members when it has urgent, time-sensitive information to bring to their attention.

DID YOU KNOW

The last week in August, the PCT Facebook Page topped 1000 viewers. [Have you liked it yet?](#)

PCT President Morty Rosenfeld has resumed his almost daily blogging at pobct.org/ATM.

Become a follower of Morty's tweets at [twitter.com@mortyrotenfeld1](https://twitter.com/mortyrotenfeld1)

CREDITS FOR SALE

Adelphi University - 3 credits for sale. Contact Dan Poplawski at 631-220-9634.