

Happenings

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT #2937, AFL-CIO

Editor: Timothy Leonard
tleonard@pjschools.org

Message from the President

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Welcome back! I hope that your summer was relaxing, safe, and productive. This year will be, as are most, filled with challenges. However, we will strive to change them into achievements and accomplishments.

The month of September is an informational month!

Communication

The P.J.T.A. office is located at the high school in Modular 2. If you have a question or a concern about a personal union business matter, you can e-mail me at presidentpjta11@gmail.com. I check this account on a daily basis. It is wise to limit use of the district's e-mail service to school district business.

Make sure you send your personal e-mail messages through your personal e-mail account if you are going to contact me using presidentpjta11@gmail.com.

If you would like to speak to me or call me, I will be in the PJTA office and near a phone from 7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m., 10:05 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., and

1:30p.m. – 2:30 p.m. The PJTA Office extension is 11615 or 11940. If you need to fax or leave a personal message to the PJTA office, you can do so at (845) 858-3644. The (845) 858-3644 number is not connected to the district server. PJTA pays for this personal line.

Welcome Back Social

On September 21, 2018, we had our “Welcome Back” social at the Tiki Bar. It was nice to see everybody, and everyone had a great time.

Flex

Enrollment forms for the upcoming Flex Plan year are due back to the payroll office by the end of September.

Health Plan

Open enrollment for the health plan takes place for the entire month of October. The change would be effective on January 1, 2019. Please contact Karen Howard for information and enrollment forms at extension 15539.

Benefit Fund

Each member should have a PJTA Benefit Fund information booklet. Please take the time to educate yourself regarding reimbursement for dental procedures. This will save you delays in processing your claims, as well as teach you the steps to take to avoid denial claims.

Please be sure to update the district payroll office and PJTA Benefit Fund administrator should you divorce. Ex-spouses are not entitled to your benefits, and nondisclosure of a divorce could be considered an intent to defraud the plan.

Dependents entering college must have a dependent student certification form

completed each semester. These are available in the schools' offices or the PJTA website. Dependents are not covered until the age of 26 like the health insurance. Dependents over the age of 19 must be full time students in an accredited college and under age 25.

The new two-year vision cycle began on July 1, 2017. The maximum vision care benefit per member for covered charges for the two-year vision care plan cycle (July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019) is \$1,300.00. No benefit payment will be made in excess of the actual charges.

*****PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU VISIT THE PJTA WEBSITE UNDER *BENEFIT FUND INFORMATION* FOR MORE INFORMATION*****

Marital Status Change/Address Change

If there has been a change in your marital status, it may be necessary to change your life insurance beneficiary, NYSTRS beneficiary, and health insurance coverage.

Check your paycheck! Is your address correct? If not, you should notify Nancy Ladonne at the district office and Joe Becker, our Treasurer ASAP!

Committees

I would like to thank all of you who stepped up and volunteered this year to serve on a committee. I truly appreciate all the hard work and dedication that everyone does.

Social Network of Internet

Postings to Facebook pages and other social networks are not as private as one might believe. In fact, you should not consider them private at all. Nothing should be put on them that you would not want your current or future employer to see. Be careful what you post to social media because it could be used against you in being disciplined.

Text messages and e-mails can be saved, shared, and potentially used against you! Be careful what you type!

Building/Faculty Cabinet Representatives

It is that time again...time to elect building representatives. We will need seven from the high school, five from the middle school, seven from A.S.K., and five from H.B.E. Please review the duties and responsibilities of a building representative in your PJTA Constitution, and give your name to your head-building representative if you are interested.

Head Building Representatives:

Nancy Northup – ASK

Jennifer Kowal – HBE

Walter Kaufmann – MS

Austin Carroll – HS

The head building representative will conduct an election in each building if there are more volunteers than positions in any building. New representatives take office in October.

Head building representative positions will become effective in October as well.

PJTA is also looking for members from each building to join a committee that will set up guidelines for the smooth and consistent implementation of each building's faculty cabinet. If interested, please contact your head-building representative.

Salary Adjustment

If you completed an approved graduate course or 45 hours of approved in-service course work, you must submit a salary adjustment claim form, the prior approval form, and an official college transcript to central office by the end of October and February.

Salary Agreement

Please check the salary agreement form carefully before signing. If you see any errors or have any questions, direct your concerns to Nancy Ladonne at the district office.

Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)

Teachers, please make sure you review the Danielson Revised Rubric (2013 version). Remember, you are only

doing domains I – III. Domains II & III are based only on the observations (announced, unannounced, and walk-throughs), conducted by your administrator. Make sure you review our new APPR document!

Elementary Libraries

Both elementary libraries should be back together by next month.

Air Conditioning

PJTA addressed this concern that there needs to be air conditioning in the buildings, especially working air conditioning in all of the faculty rooms. The district told PJTA that they are going to look at a plan of action when there is going to be a high heat index.

In Solidarity,

Regis

Message from the Editor

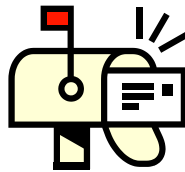
The last conversation I had with Jim Cullinan that extended beyond simply exchanging brief pleasantries at a random encounter was at the PJTA retirement dinner the year that Jim ended his teaching career. My wife was 8 ½ months pregnant at the time, so we had decided not to attend. I did, however, decide that evening to put on a jacket and tie so I could briefly stop at the venue, shake Jim's hand, congratulate him on his retirement, and share with him how fortunate I felt to have been one of his fourth grade students back in 1975. I remember telling him that I carried more pleasant memories of that year of school than all my other years of elementary school combined. I think he appreciated my telling him that. Although the night was for Jim and the other retiring PJTA members, he spent more time asking about my life than he did reflecting upon his illustrious career at ASK. And of the myriad of qualities that made Mr. Cullinan a great teacher, I believe this was the primary reason his students loved him: when he spoke to me that evening, the same feeling encompassed me at 45 years of age that used to envelop me in his classroom as a ten-year-old. You simply knew that he genuinely cared about you. Having Mr. Cullinan as one's teacher meant one looked forward to going to school each day. I certainly am glad I stopped at that celebration to congratulate and thank him.

The last conversation I had with Bill Hubbard took place on the telephone less than a week before he passed away. We talked about one of our shared interests, real estate construction, but the conversation quickly switched to arranging to socialize at the lake house he shared with his beautiful wife, Roseann. Bill was also one of my teachers, having taught me in both grade eight and during my senior year. Like Mr. Cullinan, it was evident to Bill's students how much he cared about them and wanted them to succeed. As president of PJTA, Bill quickly took me under his wing when I began teaching at the high school, sharing with me his knowledge of the history of our local unit and encouraging me to be an active participant in the union. As I continued to socialize with Bill over the years, his diverse talents astounded

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me: educator, union leader, skier, pilot, master craftsman. Bill pursued excellence in all he did, and that included being a good friend. I have not done the research, but I am confident that, combined, Jim and Bill taught for approximately seventy years in our district. I was but one of thousands of students that each had positively influenced over those decades. The legacy each created as educators cannot possibly be measured, embellished, or most importantly, extinguished. What better definition of a life well lived can exist than that?



Correspondence

Sympathy

Grace Monahan, on the loss of her brother, Joseph O'Brien

Cards Received

Thank you from Roseann Hubbard

Thank you from the Marion Cooper Foundation for the donation made in memory of

William Hubbard.

Thank you from Sophia DiGiantommaso for receiving a PJTA scholarship.

Thank you from Andrew Klotz for receiving a PJTA scholarship.

Thank you from Shannon Klotz for receiving a PJTA scholarship.