

# OCEA NEWS

## Message from the President

Wow, here we are in the last week of school. It's amazing how quickly the year flew by. I'm sorry this newsletter is coming out so late this year, but I kept writing and rewriting my "End of the year" message. I finally decided to just keep it simple and to the point. Thank you to all of our OCEA leaders, who worked diligently together on our behalf all year. Our Exec. Board, Building Reps, Measure 97 volunteers, and numerous colleagues gave time, talent, and effort to help our OCEA and district run smoothly. Thank you also, to all of you for all you've done this year to support your students and colleagues throughout the year. May you all have a wonderful summer.

**-Cindy Williams**

## Bargaining Update

Please read the Bargaining Updates that we have been sending out after our Problem Solving sessions with the District. The updates are full of valuable information. Please feel free to observe our Problem Solving (Bargaining) team in action. The next meeting is Thursday, June 22 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm in the downstairs conference room at the District office. *If you would like a chair to sit on while observing your team work for us, please try to RSVP to Brent.Leong@orecity.k12.or.us or your Building Rep ahead of time so we can set up the proper number of chairs.*

## Farewell to our Retiring Colleagues and those who are moving on to new adventures

Please join me in wishing our retirees a healthy and wonderful retirement. There are no words to express the appreciation and gratefulness we all feel toward all of you. We hope you stay in touch and enjoy the next leg of your life journey. You will be missed and we wish you the very best in your retirement. Please let us know if we have missed someone. Our honored retirees are:

Alysia Warner – McLoughlin, Angella Carey – Gaffney Lane, Connie Wescott – Gardiner (will be back ½ time), Dave Pak – Ogden, Jan Allen – OCHS, Jan Snyder ( will be back ½ time), Jayne Vetter- OCHS, Marcy Scott – Jennings Lodge, Michelle Harrington – Holcomb, Mitch Luftig (will be back to help), Nancy Duhrkoop – Gaffney Lane, Sherril Daniels – OCHS, Steve Buhler – Ogden.

We also want to acknowledge our colleagues who are moving to other districts and endeavors. Christina Apodaca, Jeff Zeman, Mindy Burel, Erica Bevilacqua, Merrilee Ferguson, Lauren Allan, Laura Hall, Oriana Connolly, Randy Nyquist, Amy Dancoes, Christine Hamlin, Clara Moynahan, Tate Olsen, and others I may be missing. You too will be missed. We value all you have done for our district and wish you well. Please keep in touch.

## Contact Your Legislator

The budget forecast is not looking good. We need your legislators to hear from you! Legislators need to support public education with stable funding and be well informed about educational issues. You can find your legislator [here](#).

## We've Been Listening:

The listening activity went well and was very insightful. We truly appreciate all of you who talked with our volunteers. We were able to have conversations with 183 out of 334 people from the buildings we visited. Getting to talk with 54% of our colleagues in seven buildings was awesome.



The main themes expressed were:

**Challenges:** Student behavior and lack of resources. We heard, "Please don't lay me off, don't cut my budget, and please make sure I don't have a huge case load or class size". Too much on their plates.

**Likes:** Our community, students, peer groups, teacher directed PLC time so they can collaborate – more autonomy in some ways.

**Association:** Appreciated and encouraged that we are asking their opinions. Would like to participate but they are swamped and can't find the time right now.

**Trusted and Respected:** Many of their colleagues and administrators.

This activity let us know you are invested in our school community. You care deeply about our students and colleagues. Another thing we heard was that many of you want to be even more informed. Our ideal Building Rep. ratio would be one Building Rep. to every 10 staff members so there is room for you to try joining us. We hope you are encouraged to participate in the Association to help make it easier for you and your colleagues to be in the know. You are invited to join us for any Building Rep. meeting, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday afternoon of each month and you can also be in the gallery during Problem Solving (bargaining) sessions. Check your email from Brent Leong to know the where and when.

We will reach out to the schools we didn't get to this time in the fall. It was great meeting you and I look forward to talking with you during my building visits next year.

## Licensure

Please check your license. Make sure you keep track of your PDUs and your renewal date.

You can go to the [TSPC website](#) for more information.

## Summer Reading Challenges for Kids

## CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to Vanessa Mohler. She was the trivia winner for April/May!

**Do you have to sign your mini observations or evaluations, especially if you disagree with the information?**

Be the first to email [Cindy Williams](#) with the correct answer and win a prize!

Check out the [OCEA on Facebook!](#) Our news feed is one of the best ways to get the latest info on issues affecting your important work. Don't worry, if you don't have a Facebook account, you can still follow our news feed at our [website](#).