

OCEA NEWS

Message from the President

Remember when snow days were “guilt free” and we had the day off with pay just because Jack Frost visited our town? We need to thank the members that came way before us to forge a friendly Collective Bargaining Agreement. Nowadays things are different. We have stricter standards on instructional minutes and district objectives to maximize student learning. The reality is, in this current season, that although we enjoy the freedom to stay home and work from home, or drink hot chocolate by the fire or sled down our neighborhood streets, we also realize we must make up some of the time we lost. In times past, we had 14 hours built into the contract which helped us absorb the time lost in class.

We no longer have that luxury and OCSD didn't request a waiver because our current group of seniors has lost 27 furlough days in the classroom throughout their school career. Instead of just adding days onto the end of the year or using the waiver, we tried a different approach. District leadership asked OCEA and OSEA leadership to work together to figure out the best way to make up the days. I am sure we may have made mistakes, and I know we can't please everyone, but I am thankful that the OCEA is made up of people who like to be informed and reason things out and then share their voice.

After many discussions and a meeting with representatives from every school level, SpEd, School Board, and even a parent, we came up with what we thought would be the best workable plan for all involved. Whether you are thrilled or not, I'd like to suggest we take a moment to be thankful. Other districts around the state are in much worse situations. Many districts around the state were told they were adding days to the end of the year without consultation with their associations. Some districts are going to school until June 26th.

I am thankful for all of you who were patient and understanding as our OCEA team tried to navigate us through this unprecedented situation.
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Important Dates

February & March

OCEA Rep Council Meeting- Feb 21 @ 4pm
OCEA Office

Lobby Day- Feb 20th @ 9am
Salem Convention Center

OCSD Budget Work Session- Feb 27 @ 6pm
Downstairs District Office

Classified (ESP) Employee Week- March 6 - 10

OCEA Executive Board Meeting- Mar 7 @ 4pm
OCEA Office

School Board Work Session- Mar 13 @ 6pm
Jackson Campus

School Board Meeting- Mar 13 @ 7pm
Jackson Campus Board Room

OCEA Rep Council Meeting- Mar 14 @ 4pm
OCEA Office

Contract Maintenance Committee- Mar 15 @ 3:45pm
OCEA Office

Elem/MS Conferences- Mar 22 - 23 in evening

No School- OCHS Grading Day- Mar 24

Spring Break- Mar 27 - 31

President Lunch Visits

Feb 21- OCHS

Feb 23- OCCLA

Feb 28- Redland

Mar 1- CAIS

Mar 2- Beavercreek

Mar 8- Ogden

Mar 10- Holcomb

Cindy Williams will be visiting schools during scheduled lunch and unassigned times. Take a few minutes to introduce yourself or visit with her. This is an optional event, though Cindy is excited to meet you.

Ensuring Safe, Welcoming, and Bias-free Schools

More information, click [here](#)

We are attaching a [link to the MOU](#) that I signed recently that represents the outcome of our collaborative process. Please note there are 2 additional PD days that need to be completed by June 30th. We don't have details about the PD that will be offered yet and are hoping something will be offered during the school year. Stay tuned because we will let you know as soon as we know what the actual plan is. The MOU has language that covers alternatives to the PD days if it is impossible for you to complete the PD. Please contact your Building Rep or me if you have specific questions or circumstances that my need to be addressed. Thank you for your patience and support and Please, please, please, No More Snow Dances!!

- Cindy Williams

“Classy Week” March 6th - 10th

We will be celebrating our wonderful Education Support Personnel – “Classified Employees” as we affectionately call them here in Oregon City. Please make a special effort to reach out and share your appreciation for all the help, support, encouragement, time, and care that our ESPs demonstrate daily with our students colleagues, and community.

[Union Dues Information for Taxes](#)

Lobby Day: Feb 20th and Mar 27th

Click [here](#) for more information.

STATE BUDGET –

As many of you know we will be bargaining again this year so the state budget is an important topic. It's that time of year when the Oregon Legislature determines how much money public schools will receive next year, and the news coming out of Salem so far is dismal. The co-chairs have presented a budget for K-12 Oregon schools that is \$1.8 billion. This is far below the amount our schools need to provide stability. This budget short changes Oregon's students by forcing difficult cuts to an already underfunded system. This will be especially difficult to work with as we go into bargaining our full contract here in Oregon City. It's time for us to take action. Our legislators need to hear from us that we cannot accept a budget of \$1.8 billion, and they need to hear from us NOW! Please email or call the Co-Chairs and members of the Ways and Means Committee and demand a budget that provides stability for Oregon schools. Together we can make a difference with school funding. Please join us in the effort to get adequate funding for all of Oregon's children.

BUDGET ROAD SHOWS HAVE BEGUN

Co-Chairs for the State Legislature's Ways & Means Committee began their Budget Road shows at PCC recently. These are important state budget events held around the state each legislative session to gather input from the public about the budget and what budget cuts would mean to real folks. Over 500 people attended and educators from early education to higher education gave testimony on what the \$1.8 billion budget shortfall will do to their schools should the legislature not take action. Almost everyone that spoke said the same thing: The Legislature must act now to properly fund education and health care by raising taxes on corporations doing business in Oregon.

OEA Rep Assembly Delegates Needed: 4 open seats (Nominations due Feb 21 to Brent Leong)

The OEA RA will be April 21 – April 22 @ the Red Lion – Jantzen Beach. Please nominate yourself or a colleague to be one of our delegates. We will post the nominee names on a sample ballot Feb 21st.

The election will be Feb 22- 27 to meet the March 1st deadline. Please let your Building Rep or someone on the leadership team know you want to be nominated. We need you and this is a fun way to help your colleagues. If you wish to run for OEA/RA or have questions, please contact Brent Leong @ OCHS or your Building Rep.

CONTRACT TRIVIA

Congratulations to Suzanne Fogal. She was the first member to respond with an accurate answer for January!

How much prep time should teachers at each level receive?

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

OEA Symposium: Sat, Mar 18th

Students in the Lead: Culturally Responsive Teaching

Click [here](#) for more information.

Opting out of State Testing

Click [here](#) for more information.