

# PETALUMA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### MARCH 2017

Happy Spring!

Suzanne Garcia, our Chief Negotiator, members of your Negotiation Team and I have completed our site visits. We truly enjoyed going to each site and talking to the amazing professionals of Petaluma City Schools . We have collected Commitment Cards from most of our members. If you have not completed a card, it's not too late! Please contact your site rep(s) or email me if you need a new card. We are in the process of organizing your responses and we will get a complete report to you very soon, while keeping your personal choices and information secure. We will be using this information to plan our path as we work to get a fair and equitable contract for our members. It is critical for all our members stay informed as we proceed. All union correspondence will come to your personal email. Please make sure you read these important updates.

Your Site Reps will be playing a vital role in our work as we go forward. Attending site meetings is important. We will use these meetings along with email to organize our future actions.

#### PERB Update

Our PERB ( Public Employees Relations Board) Hearing has been scheduled for March 28. This hearing will resolve the unfair labor practice charges we filed against the District two years ago. These things do take time, but they do eventually get resolved. The PERB Board reinstated two of our charges. The first one involves getting information in a timely matter, and the second involves our First Amendment Rights. The hearing will once and for all affirm our right to distribute informational materials to the public at our work sites. I will include an update in the April message.

#### IDEIA Committee

The IDEIA Committee is a committee that was formed to look at the increased load on special education unit members as a result of IDEIA legislation. That particular law has been implemented and this committee is still a part of our contract. The Federation views this committee as an opportunity for regular education and special education teachers to meet with District administration to discuss current laws and practices and their impact. Our first meeting will be March 30 at 3:30 at the district office. If you would like to be a member of this committee , please contact me ASAP. You can email me at [pftoffice775@gmail.com](mailto:pftoffice775@gmail.com) or call/text me at 707.696.5118.

## [Get to know your contract](#)

### Article VIII Leaves

Article VIII of our contract is about leaves. Please take a few minutes to read this section. Section F describes Bereavement Leave. You may take 3 days( 5 if you need to travel 250 miles or more) for a critical illness or death of an immediate family member. Immediate family members are defined in our contract as mother, father, step mother, step father, grandmother, step grandmother, grandfather, step grandfather, or a grandchild of the employee or the spouse of the employee, and the spouse, son, step son, son in law, daughter, step daughter, daughter in law, brother, step brother, sister, step sister, sister in law of the employee, or any relative or domestic partner living in the immediate household of the employee.



## **PFT & CSEA SOCIAL**

### **JOIN US MARCH 15, UPSTAIRS AT MCNEAR'S!**

The Federation is hosting a social for our members and members of CSEA ( classified employees) . This is the first time we have held a joint event. Please join us this Wednesday, March 15 from 3:30 to 6:00. PFT will provide appetizers and drinks. This is a great way to get to know your colleagues and associates throughout the district. We hope to see you there!


New T- Shirts are here! A big thanks to Molly Eckler ( Doug Emery's wife ) , Doug Emery, and Tammy Elliott for designing and ordering our new t-shirts. This is no small task. Your first chance to get your shirt is at our social.

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