

# PCTA ACTION



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727-585-6518

December 13, 2018

## *Bargaining Update*

The PCTA and PCSB bargaining teams met yesterday evening at the Administration building. The bargaining session, which started at 4:30pm and went until after 9:00pm, covered twenty-eight proposals presented as counter offers by the District. There was discussion on each article and the tone of the evening was respectful as both sides expressed a desire to reach a tentative agreement that would be overwhelmingly accepted in a ratification vote as well as approved by the School Board.

Toward the end of the evening, after a caucus, the PCTA team approved nine articles as written and an additional five with suggested minor changes that the District indicated they were willing to accept. Among these articles were items that have been voiced by educators to PCTA as high priorities. These include lesson plans, educator contracts and evaluations. PCTA fully expects to be able to sign clean copies of these articles in the next day or two.

While it may seem that we are still far from settlement, we have reason to feel confident that we have turned a corner and that the remaining articles, which will be presented as counter offers by PCTA at the next meeting, will not be insurmountable. One remaining hurdle continues to be the meeting schedule. We have no desire to see our educators spend the valuable planning time they need, to present the engaging lessons our students deserve, in a proliferation of mandatory meetings.

During the meeting, PCTA team members representing Specialized Clinical Services (SLP's, School Psychologists, Educational Diagnosticians, OT/PT etc.) spoke passionately about the need for contract language that addresses their unique needs. They have worked hard to craft language and create a section in the contract that addresses their unique contributions and requirements. They were unhappy with the District counter proposal which amounted to a promise to look into it at a future date. PCTA will counter the District's offer, but I felt it was important to address why these health professionals, who we represent, were so put off. It is the same reason PCTA has resisted attempts to separate the salaries from the contract language in order to get raises for our bargaining unit sooner. Secondary teachers may remember teaching 5 out of 6 classes. After being forced to take on an extra class, of as many as 30 more students, a task force was assembled by the District with the promise of looking into the possibility of a return to the 6 period day. A similar task force was assembled to look into providing teachers more planning after we lost the shortened Wednesdays. In both cases, these promised changes never materialized. Therefore, the members of PCTA have cause to be cautious. While promises may or may not be well intended, the contract language we negotiate outlines our working conditions and must be the priority of the bargaining team.

Any success our team achieves will be a direct result of our unity. I thank you for the overwhelming support you have provided thus far. So, continue to be patient and please take the time to reach out to your potential member colleagues who may be wavering and encourage them to stay strong and to join our union.

**There is strength in Solidarity!**

# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

PCTA – PESPA Standing Strong: 80 Years of Making a Difference Every Day!

PCTA     PESPA

**Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association  
650 Seminole Blvd, Largo, FL 33770**

|                      |        |                   |                   |            |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| First:               |        | Last:             |                   | MI:        |
| Worksite:            |        | Pony:             | Hire Date:        |            |
| Job Title:           |        | Subject:          |                   | Grade:     |
| Home #               | Cell # |                   | Social Security # |            |
| Address:             |        | City:             |                   | Zip:       |
| Home Email:          |        | School Email:     |                   |            |
| Birth Date:          |        | Race / Ethnicity: |                   | Sex: M / F |
| Reg. Voter: Yes / No | Party: |                   | Precinct:         |            |

**PCTA- \$33.90 Bi-Weekly deduction**

**PESPA - \$ 16.46 Bi-Weekly deduction**

|                     |  |       |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| Member's Signature: |  | Date: |
| Recruiter's Name:   |  |       |

*PLEASE call 727-585-6518 any time there are changes in any of the information above. Signing this form authorizes the Association named above to make deductions for dues, assessments and contributions.*

*PAYROLL DEDUCTION: I hereby agree to pay, and authorize my employer to deduct the dues, assessments and contributions described above and as are certified by the Association to the School Board for each year thereafter from my salary and direct and authorize my employer to pay such amounts to the Association in accordance with payroll deduction procedures in effect: provided, however, I may cancel my membership and this authorization by providing 30 days written notice to the Association notifying it of such revocation as provided by law.*

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