



Negotiations Underway

At the June 3 second negotiation session with the Diocese, the schools presented their initial proposal and response to the union's May 29 opening proposal.

Details about the schools' proposal are available in the summary emailed to all members and posted in the Members Only section of the CTU website.

At the table, in response to the schools' proposal, CTU President Bill Blumenstein informed the schools that "we strongly believe in the meaning of the word union."

The schools propose setting up a two-tiered system of benefits for members, one set of benefits for teachers currently in the system and another set for those hired to teach on or after September 1, 2009.

Blumenstein informed the schools that CTU would not entertain setting up such a split among teachers. He stated that principals certainly know what such a split would do to employee morale in the schools. The schools' proposal would require one group of teachers to pay into

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State Legislative Action

Bill Blumenstein and Chris Ehrmann will meet with NJ State Senate Majority Leader Steve Sweeney to present arguments for inclusion of nonpublic school budget items left out of the 2010 Fiscal Year budget.

The two items are the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative and the extension of busing services to 30 miles in 6 counties statewide [including Cumberland].

CTU continues to ask members to contact members of the state Senate and Assembly Budget Committees to urge them to make budget modifications covering the two issues.

Since its inception in 1998-1999 the technology initiative has provided \$40 per student in nonpublic schools to purchase equipment, software, licenses, etc. to provide technology education to students.

The proposed 2010 budget includes transportation funding up to 20 miles but language which has been included in previous budgets to cover 6

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Constrictions

Teachers in three schools were notified May 15 of the constriction of their positions.

Constriction letters went to one teacher at Paul VI, three teachers at Camden Catholic, and eight teachers at Sacred Heart.

Constriction of positions is based solely on enrollment/registration figures for the 2009-2010 school year.

Constrictions are not determined by teacher performance.

Due to the number of constrictions, CTU is asking any teachers who know they will be resigning before the beginning of school in September to notify their local administrators in writing as soon as possible.

Teachers who resign at the end of the current school year will continue to receive medical coverage until August 31.

Such notification may lead to positions for those teachers who received constriction letters.

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geographically large counties was left out of the budget proposal. In the Camden Diocese, this affects schools in Cumberland County.

NJ Catholic Conference Education Coordinator Dr. George Corwell has been working with Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, and Parent groups throughout the state to push for inclusion in the budget.

The budget will come up for a final vote by June 30. During this last month, CTU members are urged to contact the members listed below [even if you have already done so] to push for inclusion of these two items.

The budget modification language and points to make in arguments for inclusion can be found on the main page of the CTU website and were included in a message sent by email to all members in May.

As the budget process winds down, it is important to make contact with budget committee members before June 15.

Please email copies of correspondence to CTU and inform the office if/when communication with the state senators and assembly people is made.

Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee members from our area:

The Honorable Dana L. Redd,
SenRedd@njleg.org
phone 856-225-9068

The Honorable Stephen M. Sweeney,
SenSweeney@njleg.org
phone 856-251-9801

Assembly Budget Committee members from our area:

The Honorable Louis D. Greenwald - Chair -
AsmGreenwald@njleg.org,
phone 856-435-1247

The Honorable John J. Burzichelli,
AsmBurzichelli@njleg.org
phone 856-251-9801

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medical, give up the possibility of accumulating 70% of the sick days which the other group can so accumulate, to take 2% less of a contribution to the 403(b) plan and to give up the buyback of sick days at retirement.

Such a system is a formula for resentment and division among faculties starting with the 2009-2010 school year.

In addition to the two-tiered system, the schools' initial proposal ties medical coverage to all other diocesan employees.

The schools' proposal would automatically change coverage for teachers in the event that diocesan coverages would change during the period of any negotiated contract. If co-payments increase in the diocese, the increases would automatically happen for teachers; if benefits change/decrease in the diocese, the changes/decreases in coverage would automatically happen for teachers.

Blumenstein asked the schools for information regarding enrollment and tuition for the four years of the present contract. Since the diocese is requiring the schools to be funded through tuition, without diocesan financial support, the union is taking the position that costs for medical benefits and salaries should be determined at the schools' level rather than by diocesan oversight.

The union intends to shop the teacher insurance group separate from the rest of the diocesan employees. Blumenstein asked for the medical plan usage and demographic information so the group can be shopped.

The next negotiation session is scheduled for Wednesday June 10. A summary will again be emailed to members and posted on the members only area of the union website.

Discussion of the negotiations will be a major topic of the June 11 General Membership Meeting.

Executive Board Elections

Nominations/Election Officer Mary Kay Rossi reports the following nominations for Executive Board positions for 2009-2011.

Bill Blumenstein [PVI]
President

Chris Ehrmann [CCHS]
Executive Vice President

Terry Sachson [CCHS]
Kevin Gallagher [PVI]
Landa Mathis [Holy Spirit]
Area Vice Presidents

Wayne Nystrom [CCHS]
Treasurer

Maureen Simzak [PVI]
Executive Secretary

Building delegate elections will take place in each school prior to the end of the current school year.

Tentative Rosters/ Volunteer Forms

By contract provision, teachers are to receive tentative rosters for the 2009-2010 school year by June 5.

At that time volunteer forms are to be given to any teacher whose roster includes deviations from contractual provisions for number of preparations or number of classes.

Members then have the *option* of volunteering for the extra preparations or number of classes.

If members choose not to take on more than the contractual limit of three preparations, they are to inform both their delegate and the school administration.

Members whose tentative roster indicates more than the limited number of preparations and who do not receive a volunteer form are to inform their delegates immediately.

Salary Adjustments

June 30, 2009 pay checks will include the extra salary due teachers from the discrepancy between the published scale and actual pay during the past two school years.

Total step amounts range from \$16 to \$42.

The adjustment scale was emailed to members and is posted in each school.

Please check to make sure the amount included in the June 30 check is correct.

If it is not, please inform the building delegate as soon as possible.

Summer Contact Information

If your phone number or other contact information during the summer will be different than the information on file with the union, please give your summer contact information to your delegate before the end of the school year.

ctunj@comcast.net www.ctunj.com

Annual General Membership Meeting

Thursday June 11, 2009

6:00 p.m.

The Tap Room

Haddon Twp. NJ

agenda items include:

annual President's report; annual Treasurer's report; annual delegates' reports of schools; negotiations progress; election of Executive Board members

- directions available online at ctunj.com or from your delegate

*CTU RECORD is a publication of the Catholic Teachers Union. Direct comments and inquiries to: Chris Ehrmann, Editor, 8 N. Barrett Ave., Audubon, NJ 08106 * ctunj@comcast.net * www.ctunj.com.*

Catholic Teachers Union

8 N. Barrett Ave.
Audubon, NJ 08106