

# NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

January 24, 2020

## 2020 Hall of Fame Honorees



**John M. Abeigon**

[jabeigon@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:jabeigon@newarkteachersunion.com)

At this week's Executive Board meeting, it was voted unanimously that Steve Adubato would be our 2020 Hall of Fame Honoree, and Senator Ronald Rice would be receiving our Legacy Award. Both men have a long history with the Newark Teachers Union and the city of Newark.

Steve Adubato graduated from Barringer High School before going on to teach in the Newark Public Schools for 15 years. He was a member of the NTU Executive Board and worked as a legislative representative. Steve is the founder of the North Ward Center which this year celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Senator Ronald Rice is one of the longest serving State Senators in New Jersey history. He has been a longtime supporter and friend to the Newark Teachers Union, as well as a staunch advocate for public education. Under Corporate State Control, Senator Rice was one of the loudest and most consistent voices to guiding the way to get us back to local control.

We hope you can all join us on May 13<sup>th</sup> as we honor these worthy Newarkers at our annual Albert Shanker Scholarship Awards Dinner.

### Marion P Thomas Charter School in the news again!

From Northjersey.com

*Amid scrutiny by a federal grand jury, the state is holding up critical financing for the non-profit support group of one of Newark's oldest and largest charter schools — cash needed to pay off \$21 million in loans coming due on its high school. Officials at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority have so far refused to issue bonds to cover that debt on the Marion P. Thomas Charter School's Sussex Avenue location. In addition, the EDA recently confirmed that two "prior bond financings" it issued to the school "are under review."*

[Click the link for more information!](#)

**In Solidarity,**

**John M. Abeigon**

**President/Director of Organization**

**Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO**

# Stop taking our prep periods



The following letter appeared on the website [weareteachers.com](http://weareteachers.com). I think we can all relate to the sentiments here, and we thought it was an important message for our administrators....

Dear School Administrators,

I realize that it's been a while since you've been in the classroom, and you may have forgotten the sacred nature of teacher planning time. You've most likely buried the memory of having only 20–30 minutes of free time during the day. You know, the time used to plan lessons, go to the bathroom, eat lunch, call parents, cry if you need to, and clean out your inbox.

So I'm writing to remind you that teacher planning time is our lifeline to surviving the teaching day. Taking it away is like draining the oxygen from our lungs. When it's stolen regularly, oxygen depletion settles in, and you'll find yourself with frazzled, fatigued, and frustrated teachers.

As teachers, we feel disrespected when you take this time from us. It communicates that you don't think we have anything better to do or that this time is optional—which it isn't. Maybe if you knew how much this planning time contributed to the quality of our teaching, student assessment, professional development, relationships, extracurricular participation, and personal health, you'd feel differently about asking us to skip it or cut it short. Here are some of the vital reasons we need this time.

## **Planning periods have a big impact on the quality of our daily and long-term teaching practice.**

Amazing pedagogical practice isn't created overnight. It's curated during bits and pieces of planning time strewn together into engaging lessons, units, and long-term plans that effectively reflect curriculum expectations.

Teachers need planning time to think about, sketch, physically set up (and take down), and reassess daily teaching practices and whole units. Without this time we're left scrambling to photocopy workbooks from 1999. Boring.

## **Student assessment suffers when planning periods are limited.**

When working on a challenging skill or multilayered lesson, students require effective formative feedback before moving on. Without our daily planning time, student assessment takes a back seat. When planning time is constantly disrupted, so is student assessment.

The quantity and quality of assessments decrease which, in the long run, negatively impacts student learning, as they've had fewer opportunities to acquire skills. They need time to demonstrate learning or get feedback before a taking summative assessment.

## **Planning periods are our self-driven PD sessions.**

It isn't a secret that most district-wide professional development sessions are too generalized to have any kind of significant impact on teaching practice. It's for this reason that many teachers use planning time as self-driven PD sessions.

# Stop taking our prep periods

We browse the Internet for new teaching ideas and resources, read reflective articles from great teacher sites, and check in on professional social media accounts. We use this time to spark our creativity and curiosity about teaching methods and practices. This is valuable time to expand our comfort zones by applying what we've learned in our own classrooms.

## **We use planning periods to build relationships.**

One of the most important uses of planning periods is to build relationships with students, colleagues, and parents through conversations, emails, or phone calls. Teachers often spend their planning time meeting with students who need extra help or a sympathetic ear, discussing student progress with colleagues and administrators, or collaborating with like-minded colleagues.

If we don't have time for an actual conversation, we may squeeze out at least an email. This is still part of a valuable tool to build strong relationships. Since it's rare that we have time alone during the day, planning periods are also used to call parents to discuss student progress.

## **Extracurricular activities and field trips require planning periods.**

Most administrators beg teachers to volunteer for extracurricular activities, clubs, teams, and field trips. So you should be aware that without planning time, these events would not occur. It's during our planning time that we plan, copy, organize, and so much more. Want cool stuff going on at your school? Then give teachers the time to make it happen! We love making school fun.

## **Most importantly, planning periods contribute to our personal health.**

I've saved this point for last because of its significance to teacher performance and its impact in preventing teacher absenteeism. Without daily planning time, teachers don't get a chance to take care of their basic physical and mental needs. If you've ever encountered a hangry teacher who hasn't gone to the bathroom in four hours or had a minute's peace, you know what I'm talking about.

Teachers use planning time to tend to their physical needs as well as to mentally recharge their batteries, reset from a bad start to the day, or take a moment to recuperate from daily emotions. Without these physical and mental breaks, stress begins to creep into teachers' lives. This can lead to physical illness and eventually absence from work.

Listen, we get that sometimes half your staff calls in sick on the same day. Sometimes you desperately need someone to cover the kindergarten class before there's a call to 911. We're OK with that. But please don't constantly abuse our kindness and professionalism by constantly taking it away. This oversteps boundaries and destroys relationships. Moreover, you're essentially destroying the quality of education that is delivered at your school.

Please stop taking away our planning time, unless it's absolutely necessary.

Sincerely,

Teachers who need their planning time or they ain't gonna to make it 'til June.



# NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

## January 17, 2020

### Essex-West Hudson Labor Council AFL-CIO Scholarships

Every year, the Essex-West Hudson Labor Council gives out scholarships to the children of the affiliated unions. This year, 10 \$1000 scholarships will be awarded!

Please use the below application, the deadline is April 15, 2020!

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**SAVE THE DATE**

- Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:00 PM—Newark Board of Education Meeting, Chancellor Avenue School, 321 Chancellor Avenue
- Monday, February 10, 2020—SCHOOL CLOSED, Lincoln Birthday
- Monday, February 17, 2020—SCHOOL CLOSED, President's Day
- Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 3:45 PM—NTU Executive Board Meeting, 1019 Broad Street
- Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 6:00 PM—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting, 765 Broad Street
- Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 3:45 PM—NTU Building Rep Meeting, 1019 Broad Street

*Please note that February 7th, 11th, 14th, and 18th are the work days before or after a holiday. To ensure that you get paid for the holiday weekend, you must take a personal day if you are going to be absent on any of those days.*

*You can only take a sick day on those days as long as it is part of an approved medical leave. Unless it is part of an extended FMLA, you must submit a medical certificate to NBOE Office of Administrative Services within 3 days of your return to work.*

# NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

January 24, 2020

## NTU Website Update

Our website is still located at <http://newark.nj.aft.org>. Google seems to be having some issues finding the site, but it is still there. We have been in communication with Google on this issue and hope to have it resolved as soon as possible. You can still access the website through the above link, through other search engines, and through the link on our Facebook page. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

## MEMBER SERVICES

NTU Members should never hesitate to communicate with us by phone, email, etc regarding any of the issues we handle at the Newark Teachers Union.

- Supplemental Fringe Benefits
- Planning for Retirement
- Pension & Buy Back Issues
- ER+D Staff Development
- AFT Membership Benefits
- FMLA and other leaves of absence
- Assistance with Evaluations and Observations
- Disciplinary Hearings
- Labor Relations & Payroll
- Legal Representation
- Workers Comp
- Tuition Reimbursement

Call 973-643-8430 or visit our website <http://newark.nj.aft.org> or email [mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com) to address these or any other concerns you may have.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NewarkTeachersUnion481/>) and Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/newark\\_teachers\\_union/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/newark_teachers_union/?hl=en))



# NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

## NTU Staff

Editor/Director of Research  
and Communication

Mike Maillaro

[mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com)

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Assistant to Secretary/Treasurer

Subrina Screven

[sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com)

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General Counsel

Eugene Liss

---

Education Resource Department

Johanna Rios

Marivelle Ocasio

---

Part-Time Staff Reps

Robert Palumbo

John Alvino

---

Security/Maintenance

James Santiago

---

Newark Teachers Union

Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

3rd Floor

1019 Broad Street

Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: 973-643-8430

Fax: 973-643-8435

Fax: 973-242-5880

<http://newark.nj.aft.org>

## Executive Board

John M. Abeigon, President/Director of Organization

Michael Iovino, Secretary/Treasurer

## Vice Presidents

Victor Afonso

Anthony Moreno

Noor Alam

Kathleen Murphy-Butler

Cristina Balboa

Justin Petino

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Marisa Rodriguez

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Ryan Sandor

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