

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

January 3, 2020

The End of Charter Schools In Newark



John M. Abeigon

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In our December 13th Update, we reported out “A federal grand jury has subpoenaed a Newark charter school seeking information on the purchase by its nonprofit support group of two former public school buildings that were flipped at a markup of close to \$10 million.” To anyone who had been paying attention the last few years, this was not a surprise.

Earlier this week, Superintendent León came out strongly against charter school expansion in Newark. He called for the closure of four existing charters and denying the application for new charters and expansions of current charters. This is a HUGE shift in policy from what we saw under corporate-sponsored state control.

Superintendent León’s concerns about charter schools follow exactly what we have been saying for years!

- 1) Financial Impact: This year, about 30% of the district’s revenue was redirected to charter schools.
- 2) Charter schools do not offer students a better education than they could receive in the district. The Superintendent cited data showing that the district, on average, outperformed all the schools except People’s Prep on state tests in terms of the percentage of students who met grade-level expectations, students’ year-over-year improvement, or both.
- 3) Discriminatory Enrollment Practices: Charters have far lower percentage of Special ED students, LEP students, and students with challenging behavior. In the traditional Newark Schools, **we educate every student**, no matter what their individual or home situation may be. Charters are turning away the very students who need the most help.

The writing is on the wall for corporate charter schools. The days of unchecked charter school applications are over. We stand in solidarity with our Superintendent in this fight!

In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon

President/Director of Organization

Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

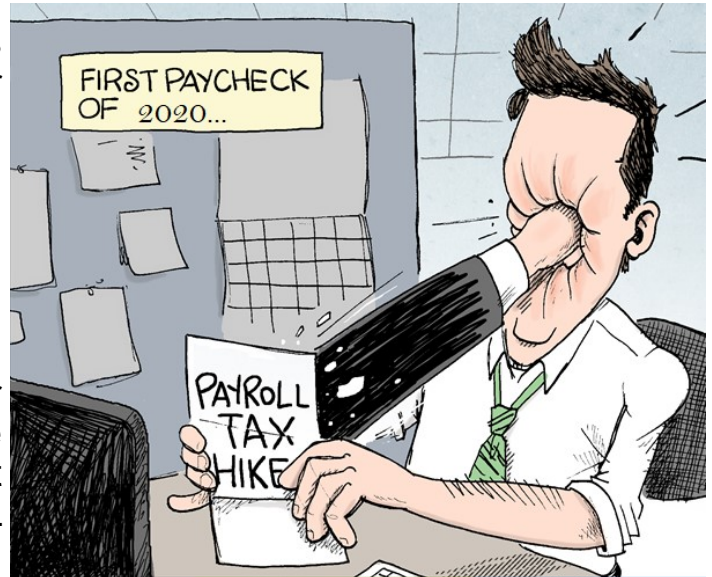
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Looking at your paycheck. What changes in January?

Every January, we get the same questions from the members about why their paycheck seems to have decreased. This is typically caused by two main areas.

- 1) Payroll taxes: There are Federal and State taxes that are only taken out until certain income caps are reached each year. This resets every January. For example, Social Security deductions are only made on an employee's first \$132,900 of income. That is ALL income, not just your NBOE salary.



For a state level, Family Leave Insurance, Unemployment, and other payroll deductions equal about 5.4% of your salary and are only taken from your first \$34,400 of income earned in a calendar year. Again, this resets every January.



- 2) Chapter 78 contributions: Under state law, our health benefit contribution is based on a percentage of the total premium cost paid by the district. That premium cost is typically adjusted every January, so while your percentage of contribution may not change, you would still end up paying more. The district has a calculator on their Benefits Portal so you can check what your new contribution rate would be.

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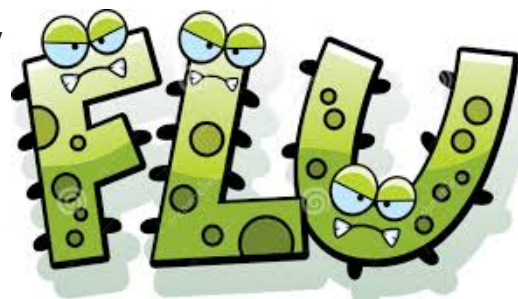
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Wellness Update - The Flu

According to N.J. Health officials: NJ flu activity declared 'widespread;' cases soar in recent weeks...

Wellness people, Wellness!

No one from the state health department is going to come in and wipe our classrooms & teacher lounges, etc. for us. Please follow and share this easy How To and help keep the flu out of our schools.



From the CDC: [How To Clean and Disinfect Schools To Help Slow the Spread of Flu](#)

From Education World: [How to clean up the classroom in productive classroom activities](#)

NTU Hall of Fame Dinner

Every year, the NTU awards our members, their children, and Newark students with scholarships at our annual Hall of Fame Dinner. This year's scholarship application and ticket/ad journal form will be coming out in the next two weeks, so keep an eye on your emails and the NTU's website for more information.



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Upcoming Prudential Center Events

Monster Jam presents Triple Threat Series

input **NTU413** as the promo code to access the group seats for any of the below times.

January 24 at 7 PM

January 25 at 1 PM

January 25 at 7 PM

January 26 at 1 PM



Disney On Ice Presents Dream Big January 16-20

Believing is just the beginning for your favorite Disney heroes at Disney On Ice presents Dream Big! Watch as Anna and Elsa from Disney's FROZEN save their kingdom, Disney Princesses inspire with stories of strength and kindness, and much more!



Share every magical moment filled with breathtaking ice skating and beloved songs and stories that give you a reason to believe!

Access your specially-priced tickets by entering code **NTU413** here.

Jurassic World Live Tour!

Please use the following links for the event, and input **NTU481** into the promo box prior to selecting seats in order to receive the group rate.

Thursday, February 27 at 7 PM

Friday, February 28 at 11 AM

Friday, February 28 at 7 PM

Saturday, February 29 at 7 PM

Sunday, March 1 at 7 PM



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- **Wednesday, January 15, 2020—Staff Development Day**
- **Monday, January 20, 2020—Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday-
SCHOOLS CLOSED**
- **Tuesday, January 21, 2020. 3:45 PM—NTU Executive Board Meeting, 1019 Broad Street**
- **Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 6:00 PM—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting, 765 Broad Street**
- **Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 3:45 PM—NTU Building Rep Meeting, 1019 Broad Street**
- **Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:00 PM—Newark Board of Education Meeting, Chancellor Avenue School, 255 Chancellor Avenue**

Please note that Friday January 17th and Tuesday January 21st are the work days before or after a holiday respectively. 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.

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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 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)



NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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