

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

October 2, 2020

Evaluation Update



John M. Abeigon

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Colleagues,

Based on the state's guidance, the NTU members of the Evaluation Committee reconvened last week and put in marathon hours over the weekend to strip out any indicator from the evaluation framework that could not be accurately measured during remote learning.

We also created guidance for how to properly use other indicators in a remote setting. We reviewed this information with the district, and we are proud to report that the district has begun sharing this revised framework with administrators.

The NTU has always preached the importance of being at the table in any and all conversations that involve our members. Over the next few months, we will be continuing this work, further reviewing the Teacher Framework in addition to the Child Study Team Framework and Adult Support Framework.

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FYI—Important reminder! Earlier this week, one of our Building Reps brought to our attention that a member of the press had reached out to get their comment about an issue. NBOE policy prohibits employees from discussing anything with the media regarding NBOE without permission from the Superintendent and Press Office. We agree with that policy.

In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon

President/Director of Organization

Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

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Families First Coronavirus Response Act

This week, the district sent out guidance about the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This is a Federal Program that allows for paid childcare leave for staff impacted by COVID-19. If an employee has questions or concerns regarding the FFCRA, please advise them to send an email to leaveofabsence@nps.k12.nj.us.

- FFCRA Summary Poster

- Quick Tip Poster

- Employer Requirements under FFCRA

- Employee Rights under FFCRA

- FFCRA School Closing Form

- FFCRA Medical Leave Form



Upcoming Open Enrollment 2021

The Benefits Open Enrollment will begin on Monday, November 2, and will run through Monday, November 30, 2020. All benefits-eligible employees will be required to complete an active online enrollment in through NBOE's benefits portal. Additional information about the portal and insurance plans will be coming soon.

NBOE and NTU will also be having information sessions (likely virtually) to discuss the new "Chapter 44" plans and other health benefit options,

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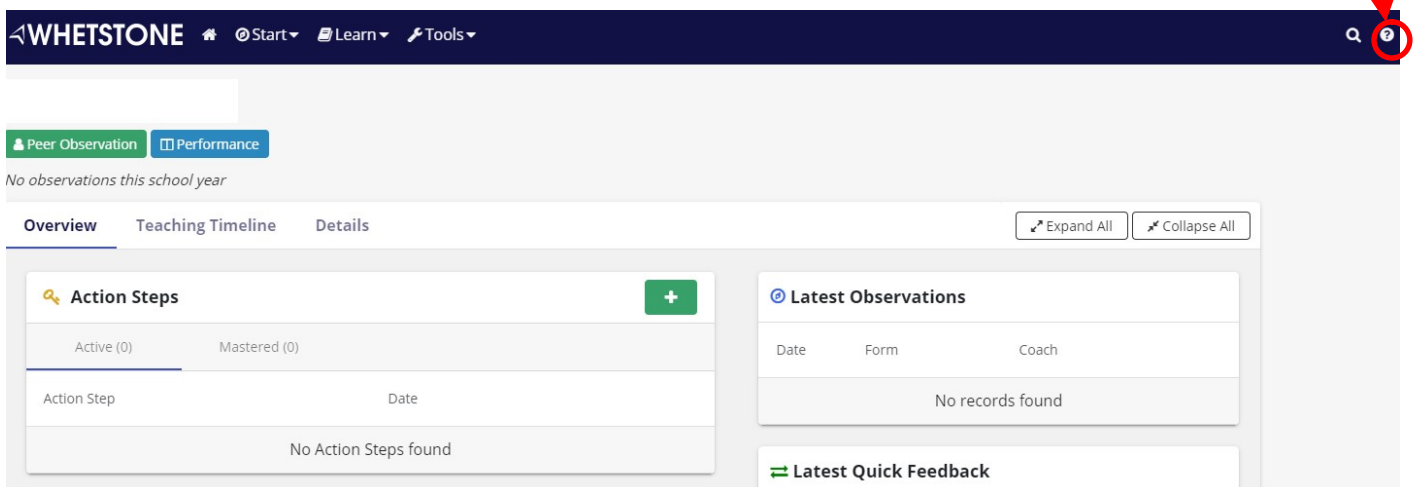
Getting Started on Whetstone

Whetstone is the district's new Evaluation and Professional Development tracking platform. We will be putting together some online workshops on Whetstone through our Digital Learning Library.

If you go to the district's website, you can find some support documentation and a link to get you started:

<https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/human-resources/educator-effectiveness-evaluation-resources/whetstone-resources/>

Once you log in using your NPS email address, you will be on the home screen. You can get more support documentation by clicking on the “?” icon on the top right of the screen.



Inside, you will find a Help Center, a Guided Tour of how to use Whetstone, and Live Support. Next week, we will announce a Facebook Live on Using Whetstone. Stay tuned!

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NTU Building Reps

By Monday, we will be sending out Building Rep notices to those sites that do not currently have Building Reps. Typically, we would drop letters in everyone's mailboxes, but that is not currently an option, so we will be doing it via email.

To qualify to be a Building Rep, you must be a full pledged Newark Teachers Union Member in good standing for (4) four full years. Candidates will be reviewed by the NTU Building Rep Committee. If there is more than one qualified candidate at a school, an election will be held. Only dues-paying NTU members would be eligible to vote in that election. Check your paystubs to see if you are a dues paying member. If not, reach out to Subrina Screven at the Newark Teachers Union at sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com, so we can get you signed up.

SAVE THE DATE

- Tuesday, October 27, 2020—Newark BOE Business Meeting
- Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 3:30 PM—NTU Executive Board Meeting
- Wednesday October 28, 2020, 3:30 PM—NTU Building Rep Meeting
- Thursday, October 29, 2020 —Newark BOE Meeting



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You are Invited to attend a Virtual Information Session

Wednesday, October 21, 4:30 p.m. EST

Register Today!

For more information, please contact Dr. James Corino or Dr. Al Galloway at Seton Hall University:

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NTU Education Resource Center

Unfortunately, the NTU's Education Resource Center will not be available. There was no way to reopen following CDC Guidelines. We will send out updates if and when the situation changes.

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.

- Planning for Retirement
- Pension & Buy Back Issues
- ER+D Staff Development
- Health and Supplemental Benefits
- 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 mmailaro@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)

Under the current situation, it is vital to stay informed! If you have changed your address, phone number, or location, please reach out to sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com to let us know. Also, if you don't get our weekly updates, send an email to mmailaro@newarkteachersunion.com to make sure you are on our mailing list.

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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Executive Board

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