

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

January 22, 2021

Workload Grievance



John M. Abeigon
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Colleagues,

Earlier this week, we sent the following Level 1 grievance to the Superintendent's office:

Let this email serve as notice that we are filing a stage 1 informal grievance regarding the following issue:

Change of working conditions for Child Study Teams, Court Representatives, Attendance Counselors and other impacted staff

The above staff can either do their duties as outlined in their job descriptions, or those staff can do the "charter school residency review" being asked of them. The staff cannot be expected to do both jobs in the same time period. While we acknowledge that job descriptions are open ended and allow staff to be asked to do other tasks, that does not mean both jobs can be done at the same time.

We are happy to report that within 24 hours the Superintendent León and Assistant Superintendent Granato reached out to us to resolve this issue.

That said, throughout the pandemic, it seems like numerous admins have been trying to get blood from a stone, asking staff members to constantly do more while providing them with less supports. We continue to remind our members about the RSVP to Mandates process. THIS IS A VITAL PROTECTION WE FOUGHT FOR AND WON!

- [RSVP To Mandates](#)
- [Working Beyond the Prescribed Day: Arbitration Award #4713](#)

In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon
President/Director of Organization
Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

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A new day for education



Yesterday, AFT President Randi Weingarten met with first lady Dr. Jill Biden and NEA President Betty Pringle. Considering the damage that has been done to education in recent years, it is refreshing to have a President who puts educators at the top of the agenda.

President Biden also talked about the importance of getting schools reopened in the next 100 days. The NTU's position will continue to be what it's always been, we will not allow our members and the children of Newark to be put in danger. Opening schools requires better testing protocols for teachers AND students! More access to vaccines. More resources for PPE and constant oversight to ensure all CDC guidelines are followed at all times.

At the same time, we must continue to ensure that staff with medical or child care issues especially are given the option to continue working remotely.

We continue to be active in the district's Reopening Task Force, and hopefully we will be able to make some exciting announcements in these conditions over the next few weeks. There is still a long way to go, but we can finally see some light at the end of the tunnel.

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

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NTU Executive Board

Executive Board Meetings

Tuesday, January 26, 2021—3:30 PM

Tuesday, February 23, 2021—3:30 PM

Tuesday, March 23, 2021—3:30 PM

Tuesday, April 20, 2021—3:30 PM

Tuesday, May 25, 2021—3:30 PM

Tuesday, June 22, 2021—3:30 PM

Under the NTU Constitution, Executive Board Meetings are open to the membership, except for when in Executive Session. Currently, the NTU is doing virtual meetings, so we are asking members who wish to attend the meetings to fill out the attached information, and we will send you a link to the meeting. All requests must be in by close of business on the day before the meeting (for our January 26, 2021 meeting, that means all requests must be in by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 25).

For security reasons, please use your NBOE email, and you must be an NTU member to receive a meeting link.

We will set aside some time at the end of the meeting for members who would like to address the Executive Board.



SAVE THE DATE

- **Tuesday, January 26—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting, 6:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, January 26—NTU Executive Board Meeting, 3:30 PM**
- **Wednesday January 27—NTU Building Rep Meeting, 3:30 PM**
- **Thursday, January 28—Newark Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM**

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

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How do I know if I am an NTU Member?

The easiest way is to check your paystub. If it says "Union Dues/NTU" under "After-Tax Deductions" then you are a NTU Member! Not being a member is like expecting a piece of teacher's lounge pizza without contributing to the pizza party!

If you are not a member, fill out this form or reach out to Subrina Screven at sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com immediately!

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What is COPE?

Under the law, Unions cannot use dues money for political reasons. Because of this, we ask our members to consider making voluntary contributions to NTU's COPE (Committee on Political Education) Fund. NTU COPE is responsible for building a political structure that can communicate the union's goals and objectives through legislation, by working with government officials at the local, state and national level, and by being effective in organizing campaigns.

This includes organizing members around important legislative issues and elections.

NTU was very active in the Georgia Runoff election which gave the Democrats control over the Senate, we played a key part in ensuring President Biden and Vice President Harris can move forward their agenda.

How do you sign up for COPE?

[Go right to the NTU Website and fill out the attached form!](#)

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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



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 mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com to make sure you are on our mailing list.

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

NTU Education Resource Center

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

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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