

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

March 19, 2021



John M. Abeigon

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3 ½ weeks to go...What should We be Doing

- **Scheduling**—Supt León recently advised Administrators to not create school schedules in a vacuum, but rather take advantage of and use the School Improvement Panel, Coaches, Building Reps, etc. in creating a schedule that will work given the school's physical and student size.

Past practice in this district has always been, and will remain, instructional staff are to be dismissed when students are dismissed. As with most everything, there are exceptions: Parent Teacher Conferences, Professional Development Days, etc. You may have to stay after 1:30 because of a Grade Level Meeting one day, while your peers get to leave and continue online when they get home. Safety is more important than anything else right now.

NTU sent out surveys to our Building Reps, Executive Board, and School Improvement Panel about how engaged they have been in the return to in-person instruction. These surveys showed us that we have a long way to go in terms of members and representatives engaging with their administration. Leaving staff

out of the process has resulted in situations like at Ann Street where some staff had been told to expect to move from room to room, which is a clear violation of district protocol.

This goes out to all administrators: at this week's Reopening Task Force, the Deputy Superintendent confirmed our above comments about staff and student dismissal. We will continue to work with the district to ensure this messaging gets out to all administrators and staff.

- **Covid-19 Vaccines**—Vaccination opportunities are now widely available, and you should be availing yourself of them. The board is requesting that you share your vaccination status with them, and there has been some push back on that. Why? As a professional courtesy wouldn't you want your employees to inform you that they're safe and pose little to no threat to you or your colleagues. It's a professional courtesy; there's nothing about you on the vaccination card that they don't already know.
- **Student Covid Testing**—Staff getting vaccinated is a great start, but just as important is having students Covid tested as well. Just like getting the vaccine cannot be made mandatory at this time neither can Covid testing for students. But that doesn't mean it's not a great idea. All Newark Covid testing sites test Newark children ages 6+ regularly. This factual and potentially lifesaving information should be shared with parents through Classroom Dojo, Remind, or whatever other means of communication you use.

- **Facilities Check List**—[Use the general facilities checklist to guide you in returning to your school and classroom.](#) Be mindful to "stay in your lane" and remember that Harriet Tubman is not the new South Street School. The needs of one does not necessarily translate to a need for the other. A teacher in a classroom 10ft away from her front row may not have or need a spit guard on her desk, you might. As of today, 75% of staff surveyed say they have not been involved in any school walkthroughs.

- **Googling your Hybrid Doppelgänger**—Somewhere out there is a teacher or support staff just like you, teaching the same subject in the same grade under the same Hybrid conditions as you will be teaching in 3 ½ weeks. Google her and, if she allows commenting, ask her some questions. We're teachers; we steal stuff from each other all the time.

In Solidarity,

John M. Abeigon

President/Director of Organization

Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO

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2021 NTU Election Nomination Meeting

Notice To All Members of the Newark Teachers Union Local 481 of the 2021 Virtual Nomination Meeting for the purpose of Nominating Candidates for President, Secretary-Treasurer and Twenty-Nine (29) Vice Presidents who shall serve as Executive Board Members of the Newark Teachers Union Local 481, for a two (2) year term commencing June 22, 2021

Date of Meeting:	Thursday, April 1, 2021
Time:	3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Place:	Virtual Nomination Meeting

VERIFYING MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND THE VIRTUAL NOMINATION MEETING

A Newark Teachers Union member who wishes to attend the Thursday, April 1, 2021 virtual Nomination Meeting as a member, nominator or as a candidate shall first log onto <https://tinyurl.com/NTUNomination2021> beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2021 for the purpose of verifying their Newark Teachers Union membership which will permit them to attend and participate in the virtual Nomination Meeting.

- [2021 Election Announcement](#)
- [2021 Election Nomination Rules](#)
- [2021 Election Secret Ballot Rules](#)
- [2021 Nomination Form](#)
- [2021 Nomination Acceptance Form](#)

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2021 NTU Scholarships and Hall of Fame Inductees

The NTU Education Foundation is proud to announce its 2021 Albert Shanker Scholarship Awards and Hall of Fame Induction.

In 2019, twenty students received academic scholarships, including two Presidential Awards in the amount of \$2,500.00, four Executive Awards in the amount of \$1,750.00 and the rest in the amount of \$1,000.00.

This year, we will be inducting Steve Adubato into the NTU 2021 Hall of Fame, and Senator Ronald Rice will be receiving our NTU Legacy Award. Both men have a long history with the Newark Teachers Union and the city of Newark.

We are relying on your continued support and good will to continue this worthy endeavor. More information will be coming in the next few weeks on how you can support our students and your fellow staff. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (973) 643-8430 or e-mail ntuscholarshipawards@gmail.com.

[Click here for Scholarship Application!](#)



Did you get your vaccine?

In our efforts to both promote the vaccine and instill confidence in our return to in-person instruction (for our visual learners), the NTU has produced buttons for NTU members who have gotten their vaccines! Send an email with your name, address, and proof that you are vaccinated (vaccine card or email confirmation) to sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com, and we will get one out to you!

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

March 19, 2021

NTU Executive Board

Executive Board Meetings

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 March 23, 2021 meeting, that means all requests must be in by 5:00 PM on Monday, March 22).

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, March 23—NTU Executive Board Meeting—3:30 PM**
- **Tuesday, March 23—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting—6:00 PM**
- **Wednesday, March 24—NTU Building Rep Meeting—3:30 PM**
- **Thursday, March 25—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting—6:00 PM**
- **Friday April 2—Friday April 9—Spring Recess**

Please note that April 1 and April 10 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 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

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AFT-NJ Social Justice Committee Training

AFT-NJ Social Justice Committee group, in collaboration with SURJ- NJ and Rutgers LEARN bring you Anti-Racism training in a 90-minute interactive webinar. We will discuss how white people, specifically, can learn to engage in conversation and activities about anti-racism and white privilege and examine why the dismantling of white supremacy is critical for all working people. Participants will learn how to take action in their workplace and community as a first step in a lifelong commitment to anti-racism.

Participants can register for one event day below:

March 22 at 7pm
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145087190693>

or

March 30 at 7pm
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/146610013497>

Members of the Social Justice Committee include : Anthony Balzano, Jason Jordan, Nancy Gianni, Catia Nascimento, Katie Dalby, Ryan Williamson, Darlene Smith, Leigh Anne Cobb, Carol Twoomey, Chris Junior, Elizabeth Govea, Christine O'Connell, Jonathan Rodrigues



IN THIS 90-MINUTE INTERACTIVE WEBINAR, PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN HOW TO TAKE ACTION IN THEIR WORKPLACE AND COMMUNITY AS A FIRST STEP IN A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO ANTI-RACISM. WE WILL DISCUSS HOW WHITE PEOPLE, SPECIFICALLY, CAN LEARN TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION AND ACTIVITIES ABOUT ANTI-RACISM AND WHITE PRIVILEGE AND EXAMINE WHY THE DISMANTLING OF WHITE SUPREMACY IS CRITICAL FOR ALL WORKING PEOPLE.

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AFT Announces 2021 Share My Lesson Virtual Conference

March 23—25



Welcome to Share My Lesson's 2021 Virtual Conference! This is our ninth annual virtual conference; we've been running virtual conference events in our PJs, yoga pants, and work mullets (business attire on the top and PJs on the bottom) long before it was cool. We've worked hard with our Share My Lesson partners and presenters to make this year even better than the last, with even more ways to access the free, high-quality professional development that educators come to expect when they visit Share My Lesson.

Last year, our virtual conference came at just the right time as nearly 70,000 pre K-12 teachers, school staff and parents joined us looking for support on how best to navigate online learning as the COVID-19 pandemic forced lockdowns around the world. This year, we have a remarkable lineup of webinars to support your upcoming needs, including how best to reopen schools safely, support social and emotional recovery and learning recovery, strengthen a foundation of anti-bias education, increase civic engagement and incorporate trauma-sensitive practices.

<https://sharemylesson.com/vc2021>

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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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Chris Canik

Ryan Sandor

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Donna Charles

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Carmen Lopez Wolf

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Justin Petino

