

EOEA INFORMER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE EAST ORANGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

From the President's Desk...

Tumultuous times call for resiliency and commitment. You have endured and worked hard to make sure that our students were given a proper education. You reached out to parents to guide them in the right direction to meet the needs of their children. You followed guidelines and directives with agility and great flexibility. As an Association, we stayed connected and unified. You kept up with updates and information doing the best at what was given to you to do. Another school year, unprecedented yet successfully completed. Thank you for your service and endurance.

I ask that you take time over the summer months to relax. It's important that you rejuvenate and mentally prepare yourself for what is ahead in the field of education. Please make sure you have updated your contact information so that the Association is able to contact you. I am quite sure there will be a great deal of information that will be given over the summer months that you will need to know for the fall season.

There will be a call for your expertise and suggestions when it is time for focus groups to be formed to discuss re-entering school. When asked to give your voice please participate. It is important that we take part in what is to be planned ahead.

We will have a General Membership via WebEx on June 25, 2020. All members will be able to join in, as UniServe will host it. Please check your email and Remind for the credentials to join the session.

There are buildings where there is need of Building Association Representatives. Please step up to the plate. The Executive Board and members will appreciate your service to the Association. Association Representatives are the members who keep us union strong. The pandemic has caused a paradigm shift in the way things are being done. It would be great if you were a part of the wave of change that will turnkey plans to help others. Union work is what kept our jobs in tact during this pandemic. Be a part of the action that holds us together. For more information on becoming a Building Association Representative contact Angel Boose.

EOEA summer hours will be Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm. If you have any concerns or questions please call or



Dr. Dawn Nichol-Manning,
EOEA President

text my mobile phone directly at 973-280-3547. Enjoy your summer and stay safe. God bless.

BLACK LIVES MATTER
RIP GEORGE FLOYD

Vice President's Message by Angel Boose

With the current state of our nation, it is more important now than ever to act against racism and injustice. The EOEI, NEA, NJEA, and ECEA have made statements on George Floyd, racism, and the need for anti-racist action. They understand that black lives matter. They understand that the hashtag #blacklivesmatter isn't an indication that all lives don't matter, but that black lives should too.

As we prepare to close out the school year, we want you to continue to be engaged in what is happening with the state of education. We are still fighting for the Chapter 78 relief and ESP Job Justice bills to pass the assembly. It is important more now than ever, as it will put more money into the pockets of NJEA members. When there are calls to action, requesting that you call or e-mail your assembly, legislators, congress, etc., we need your support! There is power in numbers, and your participation can make a difference.

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Mr. Keith Hinton II, Secretary
Mrs. Toi Hinton, Editor

Are you interested in becoming an Association Representative (also referred to as a building Rep)? If so, click on the link below and complete the EOE Association Representative Self-Nomination Form by Friday, June 12, 2020. There are many schools in need of a Rep due to vacancies or will need a Rep due to expiring terms. Every Rep serves for 2 years. Current Reps will need to complete the form as well, if they plan to continue in their role. If no one else at the school is nominated, the uncontested nominee will be appointed to the position. Here is the link to the survey: <https://forms.gle/FbF94tXyL4ripAYZ6>.



Negotiations

by David Zatorski, Chairperson

Fellow East Orange Education Association Members, We made it to June. We weathered through a historic school year full of unexpected transitions and adjustments, yet we persevered.

As a reminder, one of your paychecks in June, you should receive Chapter 78 relief. This means you should not have a healthcare deduction.

Incorporating the Chapter 78 relief into the new contract was a great compromise between the EOE Association and EOBEO. We hope this extra amount of money at the end of the school year will make your summer even more enjoyable.

Grievances

by Angel Boose, Chairperson

Pending Grievances:

1) A teacher was written up for allegedly not following HIB reporting protocol. **(Moved to Level III, STEM Academy)**

As members of the union you have collective power. Attend your school's TALC (Teacher and Administrators Liaison Committee) meetings and have a voice for the majority. Being on the TALC committee gives you the opportunity to communicate issues within the school community and discuss resolutions with your administrator(s). Many issues that are brought forth as grievances could be resolved through TALC, and should be mentioned at TALC first. United we stand, divided we fall. Stand unified.

P.R.I.D.E

by Venus Yearwood, Chairperson

Hello to all members,

We have reached the end of this unprecedented time and hats off to everyone. Your hard work, and adaptiveness during this time is appreciated.

Pride will function as it has before the pandemic. Events will be created to propose to the state, so we are ready for the return into the schools.

Remember, this pandemic is not over. Everyone, continue to practice social distancing as we want all of you to return in good health. This year took an unforeseen turn, but as a collective, we got through it. Enjoy your summer, and your families, thank you again until next year.

Government Relations

by Jacqueline White, Chairperson

Greetings Members!

TAKE ACTION:

1.) CH78 RELIEF

By now you should have sent a message to your legislators asking them to support the Ch78 Relief bill. The bill is designed to reduce the crushing cost of health insurance while preserving access to high-quality health care for school employees. The reduced costs of the plan are shared by our members, property taxpayers, hard-hit school districts and the state.

Click the links for details and "Highlights of Ch78 Relief Agreement"

[~https://www.njea.org/blistan-publishes-op-ed-calling-for-action-on-ch-78-and-esp-job-justice/](https://www.njea.org/blistan-publishes-op-ed-calling-for-action-on-ch-78-and-esp-job-justice/)

<https://www.eceanj.org/click-here-to-get-the-latest-update-on-the-ch-78-relief-agreement-the-esp-job-justice-bills/>

2.) RELIEF FOR ALL STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided \$2 trillion in aid, which included a six-month suspension of federal student loan payments and a reset on the interest rates during that time. The CARES Act gives no relief to borrowers of private student loans. Now is the time to ask Congress to make sure that the next stimulus package includes the same six-month suspension of loan payments for borrowers of non-federal and private loans.

Click the link to send a message to your legislators.

<https://actioncenter.njea.org/urge-congress-to-include-equitable-relief-for-all-student-loan-borrowers/>

3.) DIVEST NJ CAMPAIGN

The DivestNJ Campaign has been around for nearly two years. It is centered around the idea of the New Jersey State Investment Council (SIC) divesting our Pension system of fossil fuel investments. Many fiduciaries around the world have concluded that fossil fuel divestment is the most responsible action to protect funds and their members. This campaign affects all of the Pension systems that are controlled by the state.

Click here to read more about the campaign and send a message to the SIC.

<https://tinyurl.com/DNJ-2019-Petition1>

SHARE THE NEWS:

1.) NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



http://neatoday.org/2020/05/21/national-teacher-of-the-year-tabatha-rosproy/?_ga=2.5550259.1292144454.1591120956-1090522471.1591120956

2.) OUR Association LEADERS SPEAK

- ECEA President Anthony Rosamillia - <https://www.eceanj.org/>
- NJEA President Marie Blistan - <https://www.njea.org/njea-statement-on-george-floyd-racism-and-the-need-for-anti-racist-action/>
- NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia - <http://lilysblackboard.org/2020/06/george-floyd-grief-and-anger-and-a-cry-for-justice/>



EOEA HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (HSSC)

by Keith Hinton II, Chairperson

As we near the end of the 2019/2020 school year and an end to remote instruction (for now), I want to take time to thank you for the amazing work you are doing for our students during this difficult time. EOEA members have demonstrated once again that we are a vital part of continuing to keep the course. I know you are hard at work meeting the needs of your students. As far as cleaning of schools and reopening, this is what the HSSC knows. Schools have been closed for several months and we know that the cleaning was worked on for nearly two weeks. Records state that no one was in buildings without approval. We have had some serious challenges and for the most part, issues have been worked on! As we close, the committee has come up with some end of year thoughts

that we can work on indefinitely. There were some key issues in the district that were going on before we closed. For example, water intrusion in various schools. With the temporary shutdown or reduced operation of our buildings came reductions in normal water use and ventilation of these schools. We are waiting for an update from maintenance and I will forward their response to the EOEA.

Lastly, we recommended some items be added to a district wide reopening plan. They are:

- Everything automatic (paper towel dispensers, water fountains, sinks for washing hands) Hand dryers instead of paper towels (eco friendly)
- Steam cleaners for carpets in elementary schools
- Arm handles for doors
- Sanitizing completed by outside contractor every quarter
- Filters should be changed more often
- Hand sanitizing stations throughout buildings like hospitals
- School district approved "Lysol" spray to kill viruses
- Germicidal air purifiers (stop spread of airborne illnesses)

Please continue to stay safe and Blessed!

Social/Communications

by Ashley Greene, Chairperson

Hello to all of the EOEA dedicated members. As we bring this unique school year to a close I hope you are all still doing well, staying safe, and using your voice for social justice and change.

The Social Committee has planned an End-of-the-Year Zoom Sipping and Trivia Social for Friday, June 12, 2020, at 5pm. Login information is listed here, and a flyer will circulate with details this week.

Ashley Greene is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: EOEA End of the Year Social

Time: Jun 12, 2020 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4473557756?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4473557756?pwd=RWp0VjZlZWVlU1hUWm42bnNsbkdKZz09)

[pwd=RWp0VjZlZWVlU1hUWm42bnNsbkdKZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4473557756?pwd=RWp0VjZlZWVlU1hUWm42bnNsbkdKZz09)

Meeting ID: 447 355 7756

Password: Eoea

Upcoming Events: (subject to change or cancelation)
Yankees Game: The Yankee game, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 7:05 p.m. has been postponed. Once we have a rescheduled date, you'll receive a flyer via Remind to buy the remaining tickets which cost one for \$7.00, or two for \$13.00.

SAVE THE DATE! Our 14th Annual Retirement Party has been rescheduled and will now take place on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, from 6:30 to 10:30 PM, at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover, New Jersey. Tickets for guests of retirees will be \$50. I look forward to seeing as many members there as possible.

REMIND APP: Please make sure you have signed up for the remind app. The EOEA is continually sending out vital information to our members. If you did not receive the invite please send an email to the EOEA office ASAP, EOEA@aol.com. Please state your first and last name, school, and cell phone number, or let your Building Representative know, and they will contact us.

FAST

by Sharon Johnson & Pansy LeBlanc

The FAST committee met on May 28th. The final activities for the FAST committee took place with Next Step Book Clubs' reading of "The New Jim Crow" and Savvy Sisters Book Clubs' reading of "The Book of Harlan". We would like to thank Pedro and Hasanna Shaw for their leadership in facilitating these productive activities.

The Fast committee is in the process of planning our activities for the upcoming school year. We would like to extend an open invitation to members to join our committee to aid in the mission of FAST, Families and Schools working Together. Our last meeting of the 2019-2020 school year will be held June 10th at 3:00 PM via Google Meet ID # ocf-ktti-see. We look forward to meeting with you and brainstorming any new ideas you might submit.

Instructions & Training

by Byron Carter, Chairperson

The Instruction & Training Committee has suspended all professional development until further notice due to the pandemic. Once the EOEA receives notice from NJEA that they will be offering professional development, the Instruction & Training Committee will start presenting workshops. Everyone stay safe and have a wonderful summer!

Membership

by Annamaria Economidis, Chairperson

2020 has been such a difficult year for so many. Please remember you are not alone! AID-NJEA is a 24-hour, confidential helpline that is staffed by NJEA members and professionals from Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. The helpline offers practical advice, directions, ideas

and resources from those who have walked in your shoes. Call 1-866-AID-NJEA or 1-866-243-6532 if you need help during this time.

Visit <https://memberbenefits.njea.org/> to see all the offers NJEA has for its members along with a virtual fair from the convenience of your own home at:

<https://memberbenefits.njea.org/njea-virtual-fair/>. This is a great way to see all the offers from the various vendors and save money.

The EOEA supports vendors who are NJEA and NEA endorsed. James Burr is a retirement specialist and financial advisor who can also provide consultations on your expected income from your pension, Social Security, and can explain how long you might have to work to make ends meet in retirement. Here is his information:

James Burr, MBA, CRC®, AIF®, CDFIA®
NEA Retirement Specialist Serving the National Education Association Jburr@lincolninvestment.com Toll Free: 800-627-0067
Cell: 201-636-1636 (BEST way to reach me)

Please remember to keep your contact information updated with EOEA and NJEA.
Stay well! Stay healthy! Stay safe!

Dates to Remember

June 12- EOEA End of School Year
Social via Zoom @5pm

June 15 Last Day for Students

June 25- EOEA General
Membership Meeting via Webex
@3pm

September 30, 2020- EOEA 14th
Annual Retirement Party @6:30-
10:30pm



Want to stay connected with the EOEA? Check out our Facebook page: East Orange Education Association and our Twitter page: EOEA_NJ