

## “A Union of Professionals...Working with Children”



March 30, 2009

# The PFTCE P R O F I L E

## A BUDGET MESSAGE FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD & BARGAINING TEAM


Dear Classified Friends,

On March 16th, Belinda and I met with Carole Smith, and other union officials and administrative staff, to receive the information on her proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. With a 14 million dollar shortfall anticipated for next year, Carole's goals are very clear; preserve student services, maintain the length of the school year, continue to provide educational programs needed to increase student achievement, and keep the workforce as intact as possible.

In order to protect 140 jobs, Carole has asked that all employee groups be willing to forego a cost-of-living increase next school year. Because this will be a part of our current bargaining talks, we are not certain how this request will influence our negotiations. As we proceed with contract meetings, we will have a clearer understanding of how the reduced budget will affect PFTCE classified employees. As soon as we have some solid facts to share, we will certainly do so.

Please don't hesitate to contact the PFTCE office with any questions, concerns, or words of advice for the good of the order.

Thanks,  
The PFTCE Bargaining Team and the PFTCE Executive Board

Tom Smith, President   
Belinda Reagan, Field Representative  
and  
Michelle Batten  
Bill Beeson  
Louise Currin  
Sharon Hudson  
LindaCarol McKinlay  
Thea Stayton  
Becky Wright

## THE PFTCE “ALICE FAY” SCHOLARSHIP\*

We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the PFTCE “Alice Fay” Scholarship, a \$500.00 award that will be given to a graduating senior who is the child, or grandchild, of a PPS Classified Employee, who must be a FULL member of PFTCE.

Scholarship applications and guidelines are available at PFTCE.org. Download and complete both forms to take advantage of this great opportunity to help your child with their education\*\*!

**The application deadline is May 1, 2009.**

(\*Former E-Board member Alice Fay, who is enjoying retirement, ‘resurrected’ our Scholarship Program in her final year as PFTCE Vice President, and we felt it fitting to honor her by naming the scholarship after her.)

(\*\* Seniors applying may be preparing to attend a four-year college, a community college, or a vocational program.)

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# THE PRESIDENT'S WORK YEAR...

Dear PFTCE Friends,

Recently, the PFTCE Executive Board passed a motion to shorten the work year for the PFTCE President. As Board members, we would like to elucidate on that change.

As Portland Public Schools faces the current budget crisis, the Board felt that, while we are solvent financially at this time, it would behoove our Union to make some budget modifications that would be fiscally responsible, as well as beneficial to our membership. One of these is the reduction of days in the President's work year from 260 days to 225 days. While this discussion has been part of our E-Board meetings since last October, the decision to make this change *now* was driven by the recent nominations for President. We felt that it was imperative for any member interested in running for the office of President to be aware of the shortened work year.

In years past, the PFTCE office was managed by a 210-day President, a 210-day Field Representative, and a full-time, year-round secretary. The work year for the last President was 260 days, which included twenty-two days of paid vacation. The office secretary's position was reduced to part-time during that term.

Nearly one year ago, we were fortunate to hire a skilled office assistant as a full-time staff member. We have found that most of the day-to-day operations of the office, which had been previously conducted by the President, are now in her capable hands. She has proven to be a tremendous asset to our President, the office, the Board, and the membership!

While the number of days for which the President will be paid is being trimmed by 35 days, in reality, twenty-two "paid vacation days" currently account for the majority of these days. Using these figures, the actual number of work days reduced is thirteen. To the Board, the 225 work-year was a better fit than the former "presidential allotment" of 210 days. In reducing the position so few days, the integrity of the office is maintained, and members will remain well-served.

This year's elected president will no longer be required to work through District "down" times, such as spring and winter break, when employee-at-work numbers are at their lowest, and the PFTCE office experiences almost no activity. The additional "time-off" would occur during July, when most schools are closed. During these times, our office assistant will remain in our office, and should an emergency arise, she will have the ability to reach either the President or the Field Representative. Any crisis situation requiring a return-to-work for the President or Field Rep will be compensated at a per diem rate based on their annual salary.

The redirection in our budget of funds currently allocated to the presidential salary will allow us to work towards goals for the good of all members, as well as save for "rainy days". For many years, we have been striving to bring our members into the educational fold of PFTCE. Tremendous learning opportunities are available; from AFT-Or Leadership, to public speaking courses, to University of Oregon LERC classes. Each of you wishing to become an active part of Union leadership will now have the ability to enroll in programs designed to take you in that direction. By funding this training, PFTCE will be shaping the Union leaders of tomorrow; leaders that will protect your jobs, and defend your rights.

In addition, this economic change will provide PFTCE with some "breathing room" to help us stay strong, and protect our members, during these next few years of financial uncertainty. We want to be here for you when you need us, and these changes will assure that we will be!

In Solidarity,  
The PFTCE Executive Board