Mark Your Calendars...

(Please Note: Year-round schools may have different schedules.)

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
				Membership Mtg. *Hot Lips Pizza* 5:30-7:30 PM		
6	7	8	9		11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Last Day for Students	**E-Board Meeting** PFTCE Offices 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	**Last day for 190s**		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Last day for 200s			
27	28	29	30			
			Last day for 210s			

Enjoy your summer!

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	210's Return*	**"Back-to-School" Workshop (Clerical staff only)**				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	200's Return*					
29	30	31				
		190's Return* Planning Day				

*** Please contact the PPS HR Department at (503) 916-3544 for any questions regarding the 2010/2011 start dates.**

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Prof/Planning Day (school decision)	Prof/Planning Day (school decision)	Schools and Offices Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Labor Day Schools & Offices Closed	**Students Return**				

Portland Federation of Teachers and Classified Employees

PFTCE · Local 111 · AFT-Oregon · AFT · AFL-CIO · Chartered 1919

"A Union of Professionals...Working with Children"

PFTCE · 1919 - 2010 · 91 YEARS STRONG!

June 1, 2010

The PFTCE PROFILE

Speaking My Mind

By Belinda Reagan
PFTCE Acting President & Field Rep

I've never been a fan of roller coasters. When my sons were young, my husband was always the "designated rider". He never seemed to mind...he enjoyed speeding through the air, at an unimaginable height, like a human projectile, while being flipped over and over, and thrown topsy-turvy. Just watching the three of them nauseated me, and was frightening beyond belief.

Last week's happy, then sad, budget news has been like a déja vu experience for me...if I close my eyes, I'm back at Six Flags, feeling physically ill as I stare at my sweet little boys, strapped into the 'Tidal Wave' as it makes it's ascent, and then plunges towards the earth...upside down!. On Monday evening, I was on such a 'high' when the School Board approved the restoration of proposed Para and Bi-Lingual EA cuts. The next morning, I, like many of you, awoke to the devastating headlines in the Oregonian, *"Latest Forecast Signals Deeper Cuts".*

As I read those words, I began to plummet towards the realization that my great elation was being tossed about like the riders on that coaster. No longer was I happy, as I read that PPS's share of these cuts could reach $19 million. At a cost of eleven FTE per $1 million, that equates to a loss of 209 full-time teaching positions, or an equivalency!

So, what does this mean for Portland Public Schools? Where will these cuts come from? As I write this article, nobody really knows the answer to those questions. Sitting in on the School Board's Finance Committee meeting last Wednesday, a number of suggestions were bantered about...shorten the school year, focus on staffing, make equitable cuts, change the student-teacher ratio. There are priorities that will be maintained, including full-day Kindergarten, and staffing in ESL.

Too often, in the past, PPS budget shortfalls have been balanced on the backs of the Classified Employees. As support staff, we're not as visible to the public, nor to parents. Those in charge strive to maintain lower class sizes, to protect families from the harsh realities facing education, all the while reducing the numbers of those employees that truly keep the schools & buildings operational. It's time for this to stop. Let them see what's really at stake here....the educational quality of this District's children!

Rather than make further cuts to schools and staff, I believe that an abbreviated school year---**NOT** furlough days for employees---would have the most impact on the public; those on whom we rely for support and subsidy. Furlough days, generally, are "hidden" days, and the pain that results is only felt by the employees. I believe that EVERYONE should suffer through this shocking ride. The parent whose child stays home because of a shortened school year will push the state to find PERMANENT, STABLE FUNDING for our schools. The public must be made aware of how it feels when our schools derail; when they're no longer able stay atop the platforms of successful learning.

Yesterday's headlines read that Legislators in Salem are scrambling to make changes, and an attempt will be made to call a special session of the legislature to address the budget cuts to education. Will this work? Your guess is as good as mine...and that's not saying much!

In the meantime...fasten your seatbelts! It's going to be a bumpy ride!

BARGAINING UPDATE~

Our bargaining team met last Tuesday with the District's new team, now led by the recently hired lead negotiator, Brock Logan. Brock comes to Portland from Olympia, where he represented labor---Washington State AFSCME.

It's been nearly a year since we met with the District, and I'm hopeful that we can skip the games that we've felt have been played by past District teams, and go right to the meat. We need to get this contract settled, NOW. We know what we want, and certainly, deserve, and I believe that it's time to end this like adults. While our full contract is current until June 30, 2011, we need to finalize 'Compensation' for 2009-10 & 2010-11 school years, as well as insurance benefits for 2010-11.

As soon as we have anything "ratifiable", you'll be the first to hear!

(Continued on next page→)

(Continued from front page)

PFTCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SELECTED~

I am delighted to announce that two Portland Public School students have been chosen as the PFTCE $500 Scholarship recipients for 2010!

Franklin senior **Ryan McBee**, son of Paraeducator Cheri **McBee**, will be using his $500 award as he begins his college life at Western Oregon University as a political science major. Ryan, whose academic and volunteer achievements are inspirational, is hoping for a career as an elected official. Proud mom Cheri works at the Fernwood campus of Beverly Cleary.

Nelly Delmatoff, a senior at Cleveland, is the daughter of **Bill Delmatoff**, DaVinci Paraeductor. Nelly, who immigrated from Ukraine just five years ago as a thirteen year old adoptee, spoke no English until she was fourteen. An outstanding student at Cleveland, Nelly will continue her studies at Southern Oregon University, focusing on art, and plans to use her Russian and Ukranian language skills to help people.

Please join us in congratulating this year's honorees at our **Year-End Pizza Party**!

SPEAKING OF THE PFTCE PIZZA PARTY….DON'T MISS OUT ON IT!

Plan on joining in on the fun with your fellow PFTCE colleagues! We'll be noshing and chatting from 5:30 to 7:30 at Hot Lips Pizza at 2211 SE Hawthorne. **Please let us know if you'll be attending**….we don't want to run out of pizza! Please phone us, or email your RSVP to belinda@pftce.org or allison@pftce.org by June 2nd! Your "invitation" is on the opposite page!

WHAT YOU MEAN TO PFTCE~

While the success of our actions in regard to the proposed Para & Bilingual EA cuts has been overshadowed by the State's devastating budget news, let us not forget that we were heard, and District and the Board took notice of our escalating efforts to organize, in order to battle the plans to reduce workdays and classified employees' jobs.

Our success, as a Union, in stopping this madness, was **colossal**! As we move forward, through the upcoming summer months, and our return in the fall, please keep in mind how important **you** are as a part of this organization. Without YOU, there would be no PFTCE, because this Union is **not** the PFTCE President, or the Executive Board, or one single classification, or any individual. The Union is **YOU**, and **ME**, and **EVERY CLASSIFIED PERSON** represented by the PFTCE contract, standing together, and remaining strong, in the face of adversity, and during the good times, as well.

The reality of this simple truth was so evident in the emails I received after I first announced the proposed cuts, weeks ago. The responses I received weren't just from paraeducators and Bilingual EAs asking the expected, "Why me?"---they were from EVERYBODY... secretaries, campus monitors, community agents, bookkeepers, Gen Ed EAs, OTs & PTS, and IT Techs. Every voice in PFTCE was appalled at the District's choice to target their fellow workers. And, it was those voices that resonated throughout BESC, into the Board room, and made a difference. **A REAL DIFFERENCE!**

If you are currently a Fair Share dues payer, please consider becoming a **FULL MEMBER of PFTCE**. Your Full Membership exemplifies and increases the strength of this Union. (If you aren't certain if you are a Member, please call our office at (503) 236-3497.)

Thank you for supporting the cause of your colleagues....that's truly what a Union's all about! *Take it easy~* B.

Become a FULL PFTCE member ...

Yes, I want to support the Union that supports me! I want to join the Federation and show my commitment to positive change in educational quality and working conditions for PFTCE Classified Employees.

Name _____ **Worksite** _____

Residence Address _____ **City/State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone (_____) _____ **Employee ID#** _____

PPS email address _____ **@pps.k12.or.us**

Position:

_____Secretarial/Clerical	_____Educational Assistant	_____Paraeducator
_____Community Agent	_____Campus Monitor	_____CNA
_____Library Assistant	_____Sign Interpreter	_____OT/PT
_____Instructional Tech Asst.	_____LPTA/COTA	_____Other _____

I authorize School District No. 1 to deduct Federation dues from my payroll.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Please join us for the...

YEAR-END PFTCE Union Meeting & Pizza Party!

on

THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd,

5:30-7:30 PM

at

HOT LIPS PIZZA

2211 SE Hawthorne

(503) 234-9999

LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN COME...

PLEASE Email our office:

belinda@pftce.org or allison@pftce.org

NO LATER THAN Wednesday, JUNE 2nd

(We don't want to run out of pizza!)

Our agenda will include:

~The presentation of TWO $500 Scholarships to our deserving recipients
~Contract negotiations--Where do we stand?
~What's happening with unassignments?
~What about layoffs?
~A reflection back on the 2009-10 PFTCE school year
~Where do we go from here?

Come be part of the fun…the pizza and pop are on us!

All PFTCE Fair Share & Full Members are invited!

PFTCE Local 111 ♦ 1110 SE Alder ♦ Ste. 205 ♦ Portland, Oregon ♦ 97214 ♦ (503) 236-3497 ♦ www.pftce.org