

HART DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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President's Summary of HDTA Representative Council Meeting

March 22, 2017

Below is a summary of topics discussed at the HDTA Representative Council meeting held on March 20, 2017. Please see your site rep for any clarifications.

1. The negotiations team shared that there has been a slowdown in the progress at the table. One of the concerns, though, that was shared involved the excessive use of PN, PN-F, and sick leave on the days preceding and following a holiday break such as Fall Break, Veteran's Day, Presidents Day and all the others. The number of absences on those days alone last year represented a .25% raise. When a great number of people are absent on these days, the impact is wide-spread. Your colleagues must cover for you. Your students do not receive quality instruction and may not receive instruction in several classes that day. Our status in the community is diminished as parents are frustrated with the lack of teaching on these days. It could have an impact on your STRS status as well. Our district would like to follow the example of many districts and greatly restrict the use of PN or PN-F surrounding holiday breaks. Please be judicious in your use of PN and PN-F days leading up to and following any holiday breaks.
2. We discussed the distribution and use of the Weingarten Rules cards. Please keep these handy and refer to them when and if you are called into a meeting. If you feel the least bit of unease when going into a meeting, please remember that you have the right to representation. We have had several instances where someone is called into a meeting and two administrators are present; if that happens to you, level the playing field and bring in a second.
3. Your building reps again spent time with John Minkus (VA), 1st VP, and Sean O'Brien (WR), grievance chair, in a review of Article XIII in the contract. This section covers all aspects of leaves of absence. If there are any issues that need to be addressed, the sooner we know about them the more effective our response can be. The reps will be reviewing important "hot-button" issues in the contract at every meeting so they will be sharing their knowledge with you.
4. The California School Dashboard was introduced. The website is www.caschooldashboard.org and it is up and running. All of our schools are on the website. This website replaces those old numbers of the API and other ranking systems. There is a two-minute video tutorial which explains how the data is gathered and presented. Don't hesitate to see where your school stands in comparison to the district and to other schools in the state.
5. Site based decisions from Canyon and LaMesa were discussed. We have asked for a couple of slight changes to be made in their language so that the intent will be clear for generations to come.

6. Jayme shared the busyness of her last month with meetings and conferences. The work of the Association is a constant affair! She shared several events you may want to put on your calendar: The WiSH Foundation's Hoops Event sponsored by the Signal is on March 30 at Saugus High from 5 to 9. If basketball isn't your cup of tea, you might join Scott Wilk and Dante Acosta for a town hall meeting that same evening at the City Council Chambers from 5:30 to 7:30. Call 286-1565 for reservations. On April 29, WiSH foundation will be the recipients of the proceeds from the David Bowie Tribute Concert in Castaic; tickets are still available on the WiSH website and the 2nd Annual Alumni Honors program will be in May.
7. If you have moved sites, changed names, or changed home email addresses, would you please return to the HDTA mailchimp account and update your profile? The address is <http://eepurl.com/zMcIf>
8. I will leave this point on the President's Summary because the information is important.

One of the many perks that come with your membership in HDTA/CTA/NEA is access to the NEA Member Benefits website. At www.neamb.com you will find lots of discounts on shopping and travel and educational opportunities. If you have not yet enrolled, please do so so you can begin to reap the benefits. Also available to you is the similar CTA website www.ctamemberbenefits.org

9. In conclusion, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Spring Break. Should your travels take you across town, across the state, or across the country, I hope your time with family and friends is fruitful, relaxing, and enjoyable. When we come back, we begin the trek to the end of the school year!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayme Allsman
President, HDTA