

GTA TODAY

By Don Pallozzi

November 2006

Superintendent News: November 3 was Jo Kehoe's last day as our interim superintendent. We were fortunate to have had the opportunity to work together. She implemented many difficult decisions with grace and dignity and I hope her influence will remain. I will be meeting with our new Superintendent a week from Monday and will reinforce the positive changes as well as on-going concerns.

Retirement News: December 1 is rapidly approaching. Just a reminder, if you are eligible for the retirement incentive, please make sure you submit your intent to retire to Human Resources by December 1, 2006. I will be attending the TRS conference again this year. I suspect there will be conversations on any potential legislation. Up to date information is available through the NYSTRS website and the legislation link and I will send out any new information I receive at the conference.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer: A special thanks to all who participated in the walk, which raised over \$4300.00. Marianne Sargent, our team captain, did a great job.

Unpaid Leave Requests: There is language in our contract that asks for notification of unpaid leave request as far in advance as possible, but not later than 21 days prior to the start of the leave. One of the more common situations is with maternity leave and people realizing they want or need more time. Our language is clear that this request **shall** be granted but if you know that you plan to extend the leave within the above mentioned contractual guidelines please notify the District.

Personal Days: We've recently encountered some significant misinterpretations of our personal day contract language. I'd like to clarify that personal days are not requested thus can not be denied. Members are required to give 5 days notice when possible. For your own protection keep a copy of the notification form. Personal day use is governed by the language on page 26 of the current contract (also available on line). Our 4 days may be used for religious observance, legal matters, family necessities and other purposes of similar personal obligation or necessity. The District has the right to question the use of personal days after the fact but does not have the right of denial. Using days for purposes not governed by the contract may be contested by the District.

Shared Decision Making: Buildings should be engaging in shared decision making as a routine form of governance. If this is not occurring in your building we each have an obligation to resurrect it in accordance with the individual building management plans. This may involve actually finding the plan and engaging in a conversation with your administrators to update plans and define how decision making will occur in accordance with the IPAC document and our contract. We will be discussing this more at rep assembly but it is very important to assert this valuable right.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Here is a good example of an item for shared decision making.

The number of hours is five and a half (your seven day minus a one hour lunch and two fifteen minute breaks for a non-instructional day). You are required to complete the necessary amount of hours. Several buildings have conference configurations that allow for evening conferences. Check with your Rep to confirm the practice in your building.

SEE BELOW FOR CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

The following is from Kim O'Connor regarding certification and district contacts for help

New York State Teacher Certification

As I am sure you are all aware it is the professional responsibility of each teacher to maintain the appropriate NYS teaching certificate commensurate with their teaching assignment. There has been a lot of confusion over the past two years with the changes in regulations as of 2004. Hopefully you will find the following information helpful in pursuing any future teaching certificates.

The Provisional and the Initial certificates though governed by a different set of NYS regulations are valid for a five year period from the date of issuance. In order to make the Provisional certificate a Permanent certificate or the Initial certificate a Professional certificate the State Education Department requires the professional teacher to complete a Masters degree, teaching experience, possibly more examinations, possibly a specific number of grad credits in their subject area, mentored experience, etc. What you need to complete for your Permanent or Professional certificates depends upon which set of regulations you fell under at the time you received your first NYS teaching certificate.

The NYS Education Department now has an online application process called TEACH and can be accessed at the following website <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/teach/>. If you apply via the TEACH system, you are still obligated to submit official transcripts, workshop certificates, and a letter from the District(s) to verify your teaching experience.

If you are working through an approved college program, please make sure to contact your college to work through their certification process. The college will not initiate the process with you, it is your responsibility to contact them to start the process.

Within the District we have a number of resources - one of which I will note here. Kelly Semple in the Department of Human Resources and Staff Relations can assist you with questions regarding letters verifying your experience, Supplemental Teaching Certificates, or filter any other questions you have regarding specific requirements to other staff members. Please email her directly with the questions you have; her email address is Kelly.Semple@greece.k12.ny.us.

GREECE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

“GOLDEN APPLE”

TEACHER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Teachers are the heart of our school system. They nurture our children’s inquisitive minds and prepare them for the challenges of the future. They need and deserve our support.

The Greece Teachers Association is sponsoring a program that will honor one outstanding representative of the teaching profession from the Greece Central School District. Please take part in this exciting and worthwhile program by nominating a teacher who exemplifies “excellence in teaching.” For more information, call the offices of the Greece Teachers Association at 621-7970.

Who is eligible? All teachers (K - 12, Special Education, Library/Media Specialists, School Counselors, ESL, Psychologists, Speech Pathologists and Adult Literacy) currently teaching in the Greece Central School District.

NOMINATION FORM

Teacher’s Name (First and Last) _____

School _____ Grade Level/Subject Area _____

Nominator’s Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Relationship of nominator to teacher:

Student	Former Student	Student’s Parent
Teacher or Staff	Administrator	Other

Please attach an additional sheet describing why you think this person is one of Greece Central’s most outstanding teachers.

Nominations must be postmarked on or before Dec. 1

**Mail to: Greece Teachers Association
3670 Mt. Read Blvd.
Rochester, New York 14616**