



January 9, 2012

School Clerk:

Please immediately deliver the following bulletin to **your school's delegate** or to another union sister or brother on the **Contract Action Committee** for distribution.





Created in-house by union staff.

Contract #6 Bulletin

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This bulletin is part of a series distributed by staff at your school to provide regular updates on our negotiations for the new contract that will succeed our current agreement, which expires on June 30, 2012.

Longer School Day Committee

The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is creating “Longer School Day Committees” in many schools and has approached our members to join. We urge CTU members to participate on these committees because we want to:

- Make sure that teachers and PSRP’s can raise our concerns;
- Have a full understanding of CPS’ intentions so we can all discuss them as a union; and,
- Make clear to all educators and administrators that we want a better school day, not just a longer one, that will benefit both students and staff.

While we know that circumstances vary from school to school, we should take a unified position on the longer day. Speak out for the kind of day we want, not for the kind of day politicians are promoting. Students and educators alike will benefit from a better day.

Here are a few key ideas that have developed from discussions among our members and staff:

- The student day should be 6 ½ hours long in elementary school, 7 hours in high school.
- This number is on par with school days in the rest of the country.
- Such a day would avoid exhausting young children and still allow after-school activities for all students.

- Parents support a 6 ½ hour elementary day.
- The student day should include lunch and recess, as well as instruction in art, music, science, social studies, physical education, world language—and students should have access to a library/media center, a nurse, counselors and other needed services.
- The teacher day should be no longer than 7 hours and should include both a 45 minute duty-free lunch and at least 75 minutes a day of duty-free preparation time.

These Longer School Day committees should not offer ‘side deals’ about how long the day will be in individual schools—that is a matter for CTU and CPS on a citywide level. Because of changes to the education law in Illinois, the Board does not have to negotiate with CTU over the length of day. However, the Board does have to negotiate with the union over the structure of any day (including prep time, duties, lunch, etc.) as well as how much we are paid.

Contract Bargaining

CTU will begin negotiations with the Board of Education about the next collective bargaining agreement in early January. We are excited to announce that a large number of CTU teacher and PSRP members will be participating in negotiations. CTU made sure that the Board recognized up to 30 of our members as part of the negotiating team along with the officers and the

legal team. A diverse group of the CTU’s elected Executive Board along with additional teacher and PSRP members from CTU committees will have a seat at the bargaining table. This team is in place to ensure that your concerns and ideas are represented by those who know them best and allow participants to share their experiences with other union members out in the schools. There will be regular, monthly reports from the bargaining team directly to the membership. It’s going to be a long winter and we all must be active and attentive to ensure a strong contract. Please stay in touch and be aware of any and all union communications.

Hearings on School Actions

The Board of Education has announced this year’s list of proposed school actions, including closings and turnarounds. Once again they are ignoring community input, scapegoating teachers and harming students by expanding their failed policies of the last decade. CTU members, parents, students and community members are fighting back across the city. We need to support our schools! Come to the hearings (list enclosed and listed at ctunet.com/closings) to support our sisters and brothers at the impacted schools and build the alliances we will need to win our contract fight.

Questions? Call 312.329.6227 or e-mail Organizing@ctuLocal1.com