



Created in-house by union staff.

Contract #8 Bulletin

March 10, 2012

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.

Our Contract Fight is Heating Up!

We Want: A Fair Contract Our Teachers & Paraprofessionals Deserve

- Adequate staffing in all areas including art, music, physical education; nurses, librarians, and counselors!
- Smaller class sizes!
- Resources for our students and our schools!
- Don't cut our wages: A fair raise next year!
- Hold the line on benefits: Protect our health care and pensions!
- Dignity for our veteran members—hire qualified tenured teachers before new employees!

The Board Wants:

Draconian Policies & Benefits Cuts

- A five-year contract with only a 2% raise guaranteed
- No more raises unless we agree to testing-based Merit pay
- A longer school day and year, but a DECREASE in prep time and professional development and no additional resources
- An End to Accumulated Sick Days
- Increased health care costs
- No job security—tenured teachers who are laid off from closing schools get no rehire rights and arbitrary evaluation systems, which makes it easier to fire even the best of teachers.

There's still a long way to go but the two sides are very far apart. Our best chance of winning a fair contract is by showing Brizard and the city that we are united, strong, and fighting for good schools for all!

We have a tough fight. To get ready, we need to do a few simple things.

Everyone wear red on Fridays! Get each one of your colleagues, plus the security and lunchroom staff, to wear red too. Need more t-shirts? Call 312-329-9100.

Everyone sign the *Open Letter on the Longer School Day*. Download it at ctunet.com/longerday Show the parents that a better school day requires resources: to staff recess, enhanced arts and music programs, computer literacy programs, world languages for all students, to provide for up-to-date science classes, smaller class sizes, teacher assistants in the lower grade classrooms, and help for struggling students. After the staff signs the Open Letter, present it to the Local School Council, the Bilingual Advisory Committee, and the Parent Advisory Committee. Get them to sign it too.

Did you hear about the paid protesters? CPS-connected ministers and politically connected consulting firms paid people up to \$50 to testify in favor of closing our schools in order to block authentic parent voice! If you want to combat those negative messages, participate in Teacher in the Pulpit. Contact the Organizing Department at 312-329-6227. We will train you, and match you up with a congregation so you can talk about how teachers need parents' support.

STAY INFORMED: Visit CTUnet.com to sign up for text-message alerts and special e-blasts.

The fight against turnarounds and closings!

CTU has been in the news and so have thousands of parents with whom we have been organizing! They picketed, testified, rode buses to Springfield to testify for our moratorium bills (HB4455 and SB3239), sat in at City Hall, marched through Lakeview, Marquette Park and Lawndale, occupied a school, and in other ways showed that they value their schools and our CTU teachers. They fought for us! Keep that in mind when you talk to parents at your school—they do value the work we do every day.