

JEFFERSON TEACHER/PSRP



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2015 Legislative Update



Governor Jindal opened the session with a brief 20 minute speech that said little about the \$1.6 billion budget shortfall facing lawmakers as the fiscal session begins. The governor did not talk about the challenge facing colleges and universities, which are threatening to shutter whole departments, lay off professors and eliminate programs unless proposed cuts are reversed. In discussing education, Jindal devoted most of his comments to Common Core, which he called “an issue I care deeply about,” and which he vowed to abolish in Louisiana.

HB 418, the “payroll deduction bill” by Rep. Stuart Bishop (R-Layfayette), will have its first hearing in the House Labor Committee on Thursday, April 30. This bill would prohibit union dues from being deducted from public sector payroll checks. This is one of three anti-union bills introduced in the House and Senate. It is one that the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) hopes will silence the voice of teachers and school employees. *JFT and LFT urge you to send an email to your Senator and Representative and ask them to oppose any legislation that would revoke the right to pay dues through payroll deduction → <http://la.aft.org/>*

With assistance from the AFT and its national partners, LFT is working with the LAE, the Louisiana

AFL-CIO, Firefighters, Police, AFSCME and SEIU to combat HB 418. Like us, these unions are all threatened by LABI’s threat to revoke payroll deduction of dues. LFT is also closely monitoring retirement bill SB 18 by Sen. Robert Adley (R-Benton) that could threaten the future viability of the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana.

It's Time to Recommit Your JFT Membership

Members must sign a new form to continue their membership with JFT. Once you sign-up this year, you will no longer be required to re-sign a new membership form each year. If you haven’t already done so, sign-up today → <http://jft.la.aft.org/join-union/join-jft-today>.

If you are not currently a member, now’s the time to join! By joining together, we can continue to reclaim our voice, our profession and our schools.

Here are just a few of the benefits of JFT:

- \$2,000,000 Professional Liability Insurance
- \$25,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
- \$10,000 Term Life Insurance
- Full-time Education Attorneys on Retainer
- Effective Lobbying at the State Capitol, BESE & Retirement Systems

Contact the JFT Building Rep at your school or the JFT office for more information (504) 454-5047.

Just a reminder Employees have 15 calendar days to respond to information provided to them in writing (i.e. conference forms, letters of reprimand, etc.). You are also allowed 7 days to respond to a final due process letter. This is your opportunity to document your side of the story.



JFT Teacher/PSRP Survey Results

We would like to thank you for taking the time to let us know the issues that JFT needs to address to move our school system forward. Here are the top issues:

- Discipline
- Classroom Resources
- Signing Out/End of Day
- Duty
- Planning Time
- Employee Morale
- Fair Policies/Procedures
- Salaries

JFT and School Board Member Ray St. Pierre have partnered to address the top issue - discipline in our schools. At the April 22nd School Board meeting, Mr. St. Pierre offered a first reading to establish a Discipline Task Force. The Task Force will consist of a cross-section of individuals, including teachers and school employees.

2015 JPPSS Transfer Process

There will be two opportunities for JPPSS employees to take advantage of the 2015 Voluntary Transfer Process (VTP). The Spring VTP will take place April 13-May 29. The Summer VTP will take place July 13-17. In order to participate in the Summer VTP, you must apply prior to May 29th. The Voluntary Transfer Process is for certificated teachers, deans, assistant principals, counselors, and para-professionals.

These individuals are eligible to transfer if they:

- Have a minimum of two years experience in JPPSS at their current school.
- Hold a valid (up-to-date) Louisiana teacher certificate in the requested subject area vacancy (certificated employees only).
- Are currently NOT on any level of an Intensive Assistance Plan (IAP).

Please visit the JPPSS website for more details <http://jpschools.org>.

Tickets Available for Special JPPSS Employee Night at Zephyr Field



The Jefferson Parish Public School System Health and Wellness Committee and the Jefferson Federation of Teachers are teaming up with the New Orleans Zephyrs to offer JPPSS employees a night out at the ballpark. For just \$20 per person, JPPSS employees and their guests can enjoy a Zephyrs home game in section 128 next to the Party Shack, access to the pool, refreshments, and two free tickets that can be used for a future Zephyrs game. This special event takes place Thursday, May 14 when the Zephyrs host the Oklahoma City Dodgers. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the first pitch is set for 7 p.m.

Refreshments include: soft drinks, beer, one hamburger per person, and unlimited hot dogs. Children, ages two and under are admitted for free. Parking at Zephyr Field is \$5.

To register for your tickets download the following form: <http://jpschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Zephyrs-Flyer-2015.pdf>. The completed form must be sent by PONY or hand delivered before May 8 to "c/o JFT Office, 2540 Severn Avenue, Suite 301, Metairie." Tickets will be delivered to your work location prior to the game. For more information, call the JFT office at (504) 454-5047.

Employee Evaluations

Teachers have the right to file evaluation grievance/appeals provided that the grievance forms are received by the Office of Human Capital not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the evaluation documents are received.

Please visit the JPPSS website www.jpschools.org for more details. JFT members, feel free to contact the JFT office (504) 454-5047 if you have questions concerning the evaluation process.