

JEFFERSON TEACHER/PSSRP



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JFT Turns 50!!!

The Jefferson Federation of Teachers was chartered by the American Federation of Teachers on December 12, 1964. During JFT's rich 50 year history our goals have been:

To bring teachers and school employees together in order to provide assistance, promote cooperation and to obtain and protect their rights.

To raise the standards of the teaching profession by securing the conditions essential to the best professional service through the collective bargaining process.

To enable the teachers to better equip their students to take their places in the industrial, social and political life of the community.

To promote the general welfare of the children of Jefferson Parish by providing progressively better educational opportunities for all.

To promote professional excellence among educators.

To encourage the hiring and retention of competent teachers and other educational employees and to maintain modern well-equipped schools.

To oppose all forms of bias in education due to race, creed,

sex, social, political or economic status or national origin.

JFT has and will continue to live up to these goals through our members.

Happy 50th Birthday JFT!

Know Your Rights



If you are a JFT member and you have been accused of corporal punishment, or using excessive force, or a morals offense, we recommend that you immediately contact the union for assistance and advice. The principal may ask or direct you to submit a written statement. We recommend that you contact the JFT office before submitting anything in writing.

Also, if the Sheriff's Office or Police Department wants to ask you questions, and you are a member of JFT, we recommend that you contact the union. You will be immediately referred to our attorneys. But remember...this is for members only.

In order to receive assistance from union staff or legal counsel, you must be a member when the incident is alleged to have occurred.

JPPSS School Board Meeting News



The Jefferson Parish School Board met on Monday, February 9, 2015. An Executive Committee meeting was held prior to the regular meeting. One of the topics discussed during the Executive Committee meeting involved rescinding employees having to yearly certify union or professional dues deductions.

During the regular meeting, this motion was recommended to the entire board. It was moved by Board Member Marion Bonura and seconded by Board President Cedric Floyd to rescind employees having to yearly certify union or professional dues deduction. The motion carried with a vote of 8-0, with one board member, Mr. St. Pierre, absent.

Now, JFT members will no longer have to re-sign their membership every year after completing the new form.

JPSB Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to the Jefferson Parish 2015 Teachers of the Year:



Elementary

Pablo Pato, Boudreaux Elementary

Middle

Shannon Walker, JFT Member, Ford Middle

High

Riley Collins, Grace King High School

Opt-out Movement Needs a State Response, LFT says

A rising movement calling for parents to opt their children out of taking high-stakes tests is just the latest sign of chaos in the Baton Rouge education bureaucracy, and a signal that the state education board must take decisive action and give parents, teachers, and local school districts a sense of direction, according to the Louisiana Federation of Teachers.

With PARCC-like testing slated to begin on March 16, LFT President Steve Monaghan restated the union's position that all consequences of these high-stakes tests should be delayed until all stakeholders have a clear understanding of what is expected of students, teachers, and parents, and the resources to properly implement the new testing regimen.

"Until the state gets its act together, we believe students, teachers and schools must be held harmless," Monaghan said. "The burden is on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Education to promulgate uniform rules and procedures for students who either choose to opt out or refuse to take these tests."

While the actual depth of the opt-out movement is unknown, the passion behind it is strong enough that several

school boards have asked BESE for guidance if significant numbers of students do not take the tests.

There is nothing in state law or policy addressing students who opt out. Reportedly, students who refuse to take the tests are to be given a grade of zero. BESE has announced that no student will be held back this year because of low scores on the tests. And even though the scores are not supposed to count against individual teachers this year, they will be counted against schools and districts.

That could bring down the school and district performance scores, leading to the state seizure of schools and even entire school systems. In the future, the effects on teachers, schools, and school systems are frighteningly unclear.

Thus far, BESE President Chas Roemer has stated that local school boards are in control of how to treat students who opt out of tests. He has refused requests to convene a special meeting to discuss the issue, saying that it could be on the agenda of the regular March meeting.

"It is BESE's duty to children, parents, teachers, and to local school systems to provide clear, plainly stated guidance," Monaghan said. "It's time for the state's highest education board to provide everyone with the information they need."

JFT Elections - April, 2015

The Nominations and Elections Committee is announcing that elections for JFT Officers and Executive Council members will be held in April of this year.

Election Procedure and Timeline

- Jan. 26** Blank Petitions and Nominations and Election Procedures packets available at JFT Office for persons wishing to run for office. Completed petitions may be submitted at any time prior to the deadline.
- Mar. 24** General Membership Meeting for Nominations
6:00 p.m., Plumbers' Hall
(Deadline for submission of nominations petitions-6:00 p.m.)
- Mar. 30** **SAMPLE** ballots will be mailed out to members in good standing as of January 1, 2015.
- Week of Mar. 30** Preparation of Official Ballots
- Apr. 6** **BALLOTS** will be mailed out to members in good standing as of January 1, 2015.
- Apr. 27** By close of business, ballots **MUST** be received.
- Apr. 29** Ballots will be opened and counted. Only ballots received by close of business on the previous day will be counted.
- Week of May 4** Results of the election will be distributed.

JFT Scholarship Opportunity



JFT will offer two (2) college or university scholarships. Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$500 per year over a period of four years, for a total scholarship of \$2,000 each. Children of JFT members, who are graduating seniors, are eligible to apply for the scholarships.

Scholarship applications can be found on the JFT website: www.jft.org.

Deadline for submitting applications is March 1, 2015.

LFT PSRP Conference Saturday, March 14, 2015



The annual LFT PSRP Conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2015, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Crown Plaza Hotel & Resort, 4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA.

Registration to attend the conference is \$15 and is due by Friday, March 6, 2015. If you would like to attend the conference, please send your check to:

Louisiana Federation of Teachers
PSRP Conference 2015
9623 Brookline Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70809