

# JEFFERSON TEACHER/PSRP



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January, 2015



## School Board Meeting

The Jefferson Parish School Board met on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6PM. The top issues of the night included the approval of the amended operating agreement with the Kenner Discovery Health and Sciences Academy, restoring membership of the Jefferson Parish School Board to the State and National School Board Associations, assuring that the Jefferson Parish School Board Budget be consistent with State Law L.A.R.S.39:1305, for the itemization for revenues, appointment of the management trustees to the JFT Health and Welfare Board and rescinding payment of legal fees to former school board member, Mike Delesdernier.

School Board President, Cedric Floyd, explained that the original KDHSA contract was signed after the December board meeting and included items that were not contained in Sandy Denapolis-Bosarge's proposal at the December meeting. It was also stated that the contract was not brought before the school board for review and a vote before it was signed. After much discussion and comments from several KDHSA supporters, the contract was approved with a vote of 7 to 1. Mr. Dale was the only board member to vote against the contract. Mark Morgan was absent.

All eight (8) board members who were in attendance voted to restore the Jefferson Parish School Board as members to the State and National School Board Associations. New board members are required to obtain an initial 16 hours of CLUs and 6 hours per year thereafter. Restoring their membership to these associations will allow the board members to obtain these hours.

Another action taken by the board was to have the JPPSS budget itemized for revenues and expenditures by budget code, department and function. This was the previous practice but was changed during recent years. The practice of itemizing the budget will give detailed information about the income and expenditures of the school system which will provide financial transparency to the school board and the community.

The board appointed the following management trustees to the JFT Health and Welfare Board: Newly elected District 8

## JFT Winter Leadership Social & Meeting



It's an exciting time at JFT! Please join us for our Winter Leadership Social & Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 beginning at 5:30 p.m. There will be a social with school board members from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. followed by a brief meeting for those in attendance.

Make plans to attend and discuss how JFT is Blazing a New Trail! All Building Representatives and JFT members are invited to attend.

The social and meeting will be held at the Plumbers' Hall 3515 N. I-10 Service Road at Severn, Metairie.

School Board member, and former middle school teacher, Marion "Coach" Bonura; Cynthia Butler-McIntyre, retired Human Capital Administrator; Richard Caiton; JPPSS Hearing Officer, Donna Joseph, Recruiter for Jefferson Parish Public Schools, and Carl Nini, Principal of Livaudais Middle.

At the December Board meeting, former school board member, Mike Delesdernier participated in a vote in favor of reimbursing himself for legal fees in his restraining order against board member, Cedric Floyd. All of the discussions concerning his legal fees focused on an amount of \$8,000, but the actual check written to Delesdernier was in the amount of \$14,750.85. The check was also dated December 17, 2014, the day of the school board meeting. Delesdernier returned the check to the district. All board members who were present voted to rescind the payment of legal fees to Mike Delesdernier.

**The next school board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Jan. 26</b>         | 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. |
| <b>Mar. 24</b>         | General Membership Meeting for Nominations<br>6:00 p.m., Plumbers' Hall<br>(Deadline for submission of nominations petitions-6:00 p.m.)  |
| <b>Mar. 30</b>         | <b>SAMPLE</b> ballots will be mailed out to members in good standing as of January 1, 2015.  |
| <b>Week of Mar. 30</b> | Preparation of Official Ballots  |
| <b>Apr. 6</b>          | <b>BALLOTS</b> will be mailed out to members in good standing as of January 1, 2015.   |
| <b>Apr. 27</b>         | By close of business, ballots <b>MUST</b> be received.   |
| <b>Apr. 29</b>         | Ballots will be opened and counted. Only ballots received by close of business on the previous day will be counted.  |
| <b>Week of May 4</b>   | Results of the election will be distributed.   |

# LFT News

## Teacher evaluation: You are making a difference!

Last fall, LFT asked teachers for their thoughts about the evaluation system known as Compass, and suggestions for its improvement. More than 200 suggestions flooded the in-boxes of the State Accountability Commission. The Department of Education acknowledged your concerns in a report to the Accountability Commission. At a January 5th meeting, the DOE gave preliminary recommendations for changes to the evaluation system to a sub-committee of the Accountability Commission.

The DOE identified two “critical themes” that emerged from your comments:

1. **The Compass tool is not always used as part of an “authentic process.”**

To the DOE, that means there is too large a focus on paperwork and observation quotas, that observations are inconsistent, and that there are concerns over the quality of Student Learning Targets.

2. **Teachers expressed a “feeling of disempowerment.”**

The DOE acknowledged that it is problematic when “single points of data” like value-added scores determine a teacher’s final rating. The department also cited “confusion or misconceptions about the value-added calculation.”

The DOE responded with a list of recommendations for changes to the teacher evaluation process. These recommendations are to be further developed by the DOE and brought back to the Commission for more deliberation at the next meeting on February 2nd.

In addition, a coalition of stakeholders that included the LFT, LAE, Principals’ Association and School Boards’ Association came up with a list of improvements.

**Please visit the LFT website at <http://la.aft.org/> to take the survey and review the Department of Education’s PowerPoint presentation.**

The Accountability Commission will meet again in February to discuss these ideas. Please take a few minutes to look at these recommendations and let LFT know what you think about them.

# Teacher in Need of Donated Sick Leave



The Sick Leave Donation Policy allows a district employee to donate sick leave to another district employee who has exhausted all other types of leave as a result of a catastrophic illness or injury of the employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family. The receiving employee must be a member of the Sick Leave Bank. The employee donating a sick leave day(s) is not required to be a member of the Sick Leave Bank. The donated sick leave days are only available for use by the recipient during the fiscal year in which the donation is made.

One of our colleagues and JFT member, Brian Graber, a teacher at Patrick Taylor, is in need of donated sick leave days. Brian’s wife Carin Graber, a teacher and JFT member, is a cancer patient who has been undergoing treatment. To make matters more difficult, Blue Cross/Blue Shield has denied paying for Carin’s treatments at M. D. Anderson.

Brian has used all of this sick leave and other paid leaves to take care of Carin. He is currently having his pay docked because he no longer has paid leave available to him. Please help Brian by donating a day. The Donated Sick Leave form can be accessed at [jpschools.org](http://jpschools.org) or call the JFT office.

# Wellness Information

Did you know that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana offer InHealth: Blue Health Services - a disease management program to help you if you have one or more of the following five health conditions: **asthma, COPD, coronary artery disease, diabetes and heart failure?** This program replaces the Living Well Louisiana (LWL) program.

At no additional cost to eligible members, the program offers you health coaching, prescription incentives, educational materials and caring support.

This program is part of your health plan as long as Medicare is not your primary coverage. Once enrolled, you must speak with a Blue Cross Health Coach at least once every three months (or 90 days) to remain an active participant in the program.

To enroll or confirm your enrollment, call a Blue Cross Health Coach toll-free at 1-800-363-9159. Please log in and complete an online questionnaire so that your call with your Health Coach will better meet your needs.

# LFT PSRP Conference - Saturday, March 14, 2015

**Crown Plaza Hotels & Resorts**  
4728 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA  
(I-10 College Drive Exit)

## Agenda

**Registration**  
8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

**General Session**  
9:20 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.

**Workshop Session**  
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Awards Luncheon**  
12:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

**Parade of Prizes/Closing**  
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Registration Form**  
**PSRP Conference**  
(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration: \$15.00**

**Make checks payable to:** *Louisiana Federation of Teachers*

**Please return registration form & fee by Friday, March 6, 2015 to:**

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