



Advocate

October 16, 2019

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

Upcoming Bylaw Proposals

PAT has a set of bylaws, or rules by which we govern and regulate ourselves.

Your Bylaws Committee presented a set of changes to your building reps at the Representative Assembly on Wednesday, October 16th.

These will be voted on by your reps at the next R.A., on November 13th. You can see the full PAT bylaws, with changes, on the PAT website, pdxteachers.org. You can also find a summary of changes with rationales.

Updates to the TELL Survey

The Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) survey is changing!

For starters, it won't be called the TELL Survey anymore. We're not sure what its new name will be or when the new survey will be administered.

However, this is our chance to **give feedback, and hopefully improve**, the survey.

- Are there questions that should be asked that haven't been?
- Are there questions that you or your co-workers use that you want to be sure remain?
- Are there questions you wish were never asked?

Send your feedback to patpresident@oregoned.org

President's Message: Size Matters

As educators, we know first-hand the difference a smaller class size or caseload can make for our students.

The smaller the class size, the more we're able to give each student the individualized attention they deserve. We can formatively assess our students and give them timely feedback. Smaller class sizes allow for more inclusive practices and constructivist learning.

We know it, and our families know it too!

That's just one of the reasons I love teaching in Portland. Year after year, voters affirm what we already know—that class size matters. Voters have supported the Portland Teacher Levy for decades, and it's no wonder.

The levy adds over 800 teaching positions to PPS, and we are so thankful to voters for their continued support.

I know that in many schools our class sizes/caseloads are still way too big. But I really believe that with the levy, additional SSA funds, and family support, **we can get closer to reasonable class sizes next year.**

However, **none of that is possible if we don't pass the Portland Teacher Levy.**

First and foremost, make sure that you vote and turn your ballot in. But we also need you to remind your friends to vote too.

This is a very small election, with only a few things on the ballot, so our biggest challenge is making sure we get out the vote. So **please do your part to spread the word!**

In Solidarity,

Suzanne Cohen
PAT President



Overage Pay Determination

The current PAT/PPS contract states, "Student loads will be calculated on the third Monday in October and the third Monday in February." (Article 8.3.2.1) **This year, the third Monday in October is Monday, October 21st.**

All professional educators should save a copy of their Synergy class lists, and of their course preparation lists, on Friday, October 18th, and then keep a copy of that record. PPS will make overage payments in the November check. If any professional educator does not receive payment for an overage, claims can be submitted to PPS in December.



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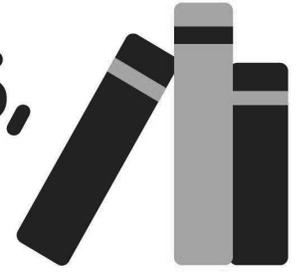
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The Advocate is published periodically by the Portland Association of Teachers for PAT/OEA/NEA members. Send news tips and photos to portlandteachers@gmail.com

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YES FOR TEACHERS, YES FOR KIDS



Renew the Teachers Levy

This November, Portland Voters will be asked once again to renew the Teacher Levy. The Levy renews the current rate that has funded an average of 825 teaching positions a year in Portland Public Schools.

It is crucial for our students and our schools that the Levy passes. As educators, we are its best spokespeople. Here is some information to help you talk to community members about the Levy.

Maintains Over 800 Teaching Positions: Renewal of the levy funds over 800 high quality teaching positions across the District, a third of all teaching positions in PPS.

Funding Programs for a Comprehensive Education: Levy funds help support a well-rounded program, with enrichments for elementary and middle grades and electives in varied interest areas and disciplines for high school students.

Maintains Current Tax Rate: This levy is a renewal. Meaning taxpayers would continue paying the same local option tax rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value they pay today.

Independent Oversight: The levy renewal requires independent oversight by the Citizen Budget Review Committee to ensure tax dollars are used for purposes approved by voters.

Want to Learn More? Visit YesForTeachersYesforKids.org

Remember to Turn in Your Educational Credits by October 31st

If you have earned educational credits over the summer, or if you are a new hire and have yet to submit your educational background, you must submit the official documentation to HR no later than October 31st if you want the credits to count from the start of the year.

The CBA states in Article 12:

“12.2.1.3 In order to receive a salary adjustment retroactive to the beginning of the current school year, a professional educator must, by October 31st, provide the Human Resources Department with proof of completion of coursework. Adjustments based upon proof received after October 31st will be made effective the first day of the next pay period.”

If you submit the credits to HR after October 31st, they will move you on the salary schedule but the credits will not be counted retroactively to the start of the school year.