



Newslette

The official newsletter of PGCEA

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2019 PGCEA/MSEA GENERAL ELECTION

The deadline to vote is **February 15, 2019 @5:00 pm**

On January 28, a link to your ballot was sent to your pgcps.org email address. The system allows one ballot cast per person.

Open your PGCPs email from Election America, 2019 PGCEA General Election should be in the title.



To access candidate speeches [click here](#).

BARGAINING FOR THE COMMON GOOD

UPDATE FOR MEMBERS AND ALLIES

On Wednesday, February 6th, the Prince George's County Educators Association (PGCEA) kicked off our negotiations with the school district at an open meeting at PGCEA headquarters.

Approximately 75 members attended, including members of the Bargaining Team and the Contract Action Team.

As you know, we are using a bargaining model this year called "Bargaining for the Common Good," in which educators, community activists, students and parents unite to advocate for our students.

At the February 6 session, PGCEA presented our negotiation proposals, encompassing a wide range of critical issues including: commitments on compensation improvements in each year of the contract; ensuring sensible workload for educators; less testing and more learning for our students; and the development of a productive and timely evaluation process.

Read more about our proposals here: <https://www.pgcea.org/negotiation-proposals/>

In addition, the 20 educators on the bargaining committee presented data driven and specific stories to reinforce the importance of all our proposals.

Paula Clark, a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, addressed the meeting and urged negotiators to prioritize less testing and more learning.

"Many students feel forced to take useless tests that they do not see results of," she said. "Teachers are not given time to help improve students, and the tests take away from already overcrowded curriculum. Time on many of these tests could be used to prepare for teacher-created tests, SAT, AP, ACT, and assessments important to our future."

Phixavier Holmes, a school counselor at William Wirt Middle School, stressed the importance of a sensible work load. She noted that counselors often volunteer their own time before school opening, working with principals and guidance secretaries to prepare for student arrival.

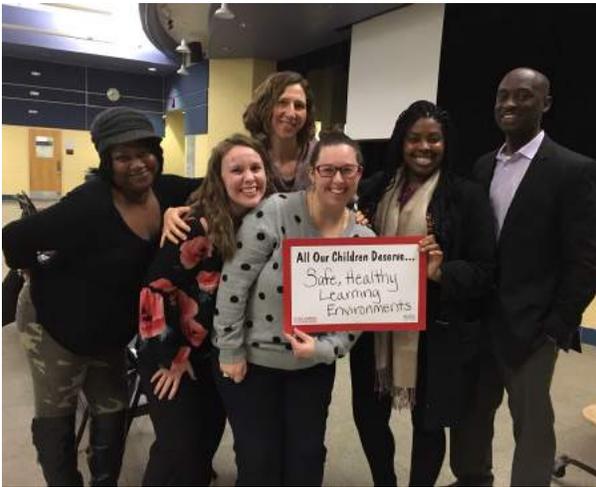
The next bargaining session is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 20th**, (click here to RSVP) and members and allies are encouraged to attend.

PGCEA will continue to bargain in good faith using the Bargaining for the Common Good model. As educators, we are part of a movement for change sweeping across the country demanding an education system that values and respects educators and the work we do.

We deserve – and will accept – nothing less.



EXPANDING PARENT & COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Since August, PGCEA Parent Organizer Lori Morrow has been working to expand our parent and community outreach in support of Bargaining for the Common Good negotiations. Through unity sessions, PTA/PTO meetings, and social media, the network of informed community members supporting PGCEA efforts continues to grow. Individual connections are often the most effective, so you can help by engaging parents and community members at the school where you work or schools that your children attend. If your school has an active PTA/PTO, ask if you can have a few minutes on the agenda to share information about the Bargaining for the Common Good and the March for Our Schools. Advocacy is a key mission of many parent groups! You can also spread awareness by sharing PGCEA posts on Facebook and Twitter (@PGCEA_PR). Contact Lori at parent@pgcea.org if you have questions or would like support for an upcoming event at your school.

LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET DAYS OF ACTION

It's our time to Show Up, Speak Up and Step Up. The next couple of weeks will be full of activities to get involved in increasing awareness of what more funding would mean for educators and students.

Here is where you can get involved:

February 11th – Board of Education will be holding another public hearing on the FY20 Budget at High Point High School at 5:00pm (**sign up here**)

February 18th – Legislative Receptions in Annapolis, transportation leaving from PGCEA at 5:00pm (**sign up here**)

February 20th – County Executive Budget Hearing at Flowers High School at 6:30pm (**sign up here**)

If you are interested in speaking at any of the above hearings and activities please email jepps@pgcea.org



PGCEA BLACK LIVES MATTER @ SCHOOLS WEEK

Thank you for your participation!



NEA @NEAToday

Educators from @PGCEA_PR participated with students and faculty in a series of #BlackLivesMatterInSchool events: forums, a health fair, poetry, a panel with parents, history lessons and of course the t-shirts! @MSEAeducators



EDUCATORS' CIRCLE

Do you need a safe space to come together with other educators to discuss successes, receive support and encouragement for challenges and to speak your true voice? Then join Robin L. McNair in The Educators Circle, a space for you to speak from the heart.

February 11th

4:30-6:30

PGCEA

Light dinner will be served.

[Click here](#) to RSVP



UPDATE: LUNCH AND DUTY CLASS ACTION GRIEVANCE

The language in the contract is very clear on lunch and recess duty: *“Any Unit I member who covers lunch/recess duties in the absence of monitors shall be compensated in addition to their regular pay at the hourly rate of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) in no less than half hour increments.”*

- The class action grievance over lunch and recess duty has not yet been settled and is heading toward arbitration in the near future.
- The grievance was filed on behalf of **all Unit I members**. All Unit I members should continue to fill out and submit the linked form to the school timekeeper, *there are no exceptions*.
- The grievance covers Unit I members at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- The grievance covers all lunch/recess duty served from the start of the 2018-19 school year.
- It is not up to Unit I members to decide how this contractual obligation will be funded from the FY19 budget. That is a PGCPs leadership decision that has not been made yet. Building administrators should not be putting this decision on Unit I member staff.



Continue to fill out and submit the **"Lunch Recess Monitor Coverage"** form to your school's timekeeper. Remember to always keep a copy for yourself. **The arbitration case is scheduled for mid-February.**



ART BUILD FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

We are calling on art teachers, artists, students, allies in public education, and allies outside of public education to submit images to be used in the struggle to defend and promote public schools. The images will be used on banners, drop banners, parachute banners, screen printed posters, t-shirts, and screen-printed picket signs for the **March for Our Schools Rally**.

[Click here to watch](#) the Milwaukee Art Build video.

If you're interested, [click here](#) to receive more information!

2019-2020 UNIT I VOLUNTARY TRANSFER PROCESS (UPDATED)

NEW for the 2019-2020 school year, Human Resources will communicate a list of anticipated vacancies to all eligible Unit I employees that submit a voluntary transfer application.

Vacancies will be also be shared with Unit I impacted by a "Staff Reduction".

- 2019-2020 Unit I Voluntary Transfer IRC Number Listing
- 2019-2020 Voluntary Transfer Acceptance Agreement Section
- 2019-2020 Unit I Voluntary Transfer Application Guide
- 2019-2020 Unit I Voluntary Transfer Process Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions For Administrators
- 2019-2020 Unit I Voluntary Transfer Process Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions Unit I Employees



UPCOMING EVENTS

2/11/19

Educators' Circle

Friday, February 11, 2019 | 4:30 pm- 9:30 pm

PGCEA Center
8008 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747

[Click here](#) to RSVP

2/15/19

Future Educators Committee Presents: Real Talk

Friday, February 15, 2019 | 4:30 pm- 9:30 pm

PGCEA Center
8008 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747

[Click here](#) to RSVP

2/20/19

February 20th Negotiation Session- Bargaining for the Common Good

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 | 4:30 pm- 7:30 pm

PGCEA Center
8008 Marlboro Pike
Forestville, MD 20747

[Click here](#) to RSVP

2/23/19

PGCEA & Issac Gourdine PTSO Health & Fitness Fair

Saturday, February 23, 2019 | 9:00 am- 12:30 pm

Isaace Gourdine MS
8700 Allentown Rd, Oxon Hill, MD

[Click here](#) to RSVP