

PPSTA BULLETIN



MARCH 2022 ISSUE 8 VOLUME 24

The Official Newsletter of the Poughkeepsie Public School Teachers' Association

PRESS RELEASE

On March 17th, your PPSTA, with the PPSAA, CSEA, PPSPA and the PPSOPA unions released the following united statement. We are proud to stand with our union brothers and sisters in developing collaborative labor-management communication solutions and demanding safety for our students and staff.

In Solidarity, President Popken

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. March 17, 2022 — Citing a number of violent incidents in city schools this year, unions representing all of the employees in the Poughkeepsie City School District today called on the district to take immediate action to strengthen school safety and include our school leaders and the community in developing solutions to help our students deal with the social-emotional needs they are carrying with them to class each day.

Specifically, the unions are calling on the district to:



- Improve labor-management communication regarding the safety and welfare of our students and staff by holding bi-monthly meetings between union leadership and the superintendent.
- Fund and convene a team representative of all stakeholders — including parents, union leaders, security, and building and central administration — to work collaboratively to create and implement sustainable policies and procedures to eliminate the violence that is occurring in schools. This team should meet to evaluate and monitor the implementation and effectiveness of staffing, policies and procedures and then ensure accountability.
- Provide immediate staffing to thwart the current violence and to address and support students dealing with trauma.

The unions pleading for change are the Poughkeepsie Public Schools Teachers Association (PPSTA), Poughkeepsie Public School Administrators Association (PPSAA), Civil Service Employees Association Local 867 (CSEA), Poughkeepsie Public School Paraprofessional Association (PPSPA) and Poughkeepsie Public School Office Personnel Association (PPSOPA).

The unions pleading for change are the Poughkeepsie Public Schools Teachers Association (PPSTA), Poughkeepsie Public School Administrators Association (PPSAA), Civil Service Employees Association Local 867 (CSEA), Poughkeepsie Public School Paraprofessional Association (PPSPA) and Poughkeepsie Public School Office Personnel Association (PPSOPA).

School staff report that violent incidents in city schools — particularly at the middle and high school levels — have created a troubling situation this year. This problem is due to chronic staffing shortages that remain unaddressed. Compounding the problem is that central administration leaves its employees, especially its building leaders, in the dark on critical decisions. At other times, decisions by central administration are not made promptly to ward off trouble. The results are that at the high school there have been a high frequency of student fights, a shooting outside the school, a student stabbed outside of the school and teachers pushed. The middle school also has had an increasing amount of student fights, two teachers recently were assaulted and a BB gun was found in the building.

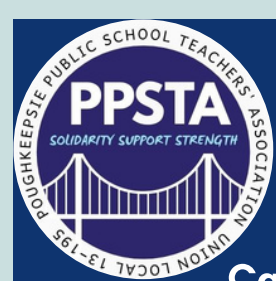
“Poughkeepsie teachers strive to create a safe, welcoming environment in which our students can thrive academically, socially and emotionally,” PPSTA President Kimberly Popken said. “But as we are seeing in other districts across the state and country, our students are struggling with the stress, trauma and challenges either caused or made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our teachers want to be part of community-generated solutions to the social-emotional challenges students are facing.”

“Teaching and learning are most effective when they happen in a safe space,” PPSAA President Dr. David Scott said. “We have to protect our school community — students, staff and families alike. That starts with supporting students, so they do not turn to violence in the first place. We are here to work with district administration and parents to do exactly that.”

“When students are in crisis, our community is in crisis,” CSEA Local 867 President Tyreck Douglas said. “We must take steps to address the challenges they are facing and bolster our school safety in order to create an environment in which our children can succeed.”

“It takes an entire community to educate our children, and that’s why we all must come together to help our students in this time,” PPSPA President Janiqua Faircloth said. “Working together, we can make a difference for these kids. This is work that cannot be delayed.”

“Schools must be a safe haven for kids,” PPSOPA President Mary Ivich said. “All of our colleagues are dedicated to creating a school environment in which students can grow and achieve their dreams. It is essential that we work together as a school community to achieve that.”



BENEFIT TRUST COORDINATOR:

Debbie Kardas

Office hours: 10:30-1:30 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Any Questions?

Call the PPSTA office @ 845-471-3376 or email To benefittrust@ppsta.org

The PPSTA Newsletter is the official notification for our membership regarding all medical and dental insurance information through UMR.

The Importance of Record Keeping~

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE AND KEEP A DIGITAL OR HARDCOPY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Personal business requests
- Time cards for payment
- In-service credit requests or course approval
- APPR Evaluation & Timeline
- Communications with the District or Administration

Often problems arise and if these forms are lost or misplaced, it makes it much more difficult to retrace steps and for the PPSTA leadership to argue on your behalf.

*Without copies of all documents, it becomes more complicated to make sure that you are afforded all the rights to which you are entitled.

*Any confrontations/conversations with administration or parents should be documented for yourself in writing. It's easier to recall conversations right after they have taken place. Put exact quotes in documents.

*Documenting such encounters and making copy of all documents, allows your union to represent you more effectively.

*If you have a points position, be sure to document the hours that you are spending on it. Remember that points positions are for work that is done outside of the contracted work day.

Need to Contact Us~

Kim Popken

president@ppsta.org

Heidi Murphy

1stvp@ppsta.org

Heather Duncan-Carter

2ndvp@ppsta.org

Kim Coleman

treasurer@ppsta.org

Jen Langdon

secretary@ppsta.org

Office Super Secretary:

Olga Mirabilio

officesecretary@ppsta.org

Hours: M-F 8AM - 12 PM

PPSTA is located at:

40 Garden Street, Suite 207

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

845.471.3376

FAX 845.471.6793



PPSTA would like to send Condolences to Suzanne Brudnak and Family on the loss of her mother & Traci Cillis and Family on the passing of her father.

If you would like PPSTA to include the name of a lost loved one, please email bulletin@ppsta.org



PPSTA BENEFIT TRUST INFORMATION



Calendar year information: Medical calendar year: 1.1-12.31
Legal calendar year: 4.1-3.31 Dental calendar year: 7.1-6.30
Opt-out calendar year: 9.1-8.31 Vision calendar year: 9.1-8.31

Notice to all UMR Plan members:

- Members can locate UMR Choice Plus providers by logging onto UMR
- To access it go to www.ppsta.org. On the top menu, click on "BENEFITS" then click on the "PPSTA Plan".

You can also find the gym reimbursement form on this page.

Getting married? Call Olga at the PPSTA office for a change of status form. After you receive the marriage license, please send a copy to Olga. New family members **MUST** be enrolled in 30 days!

Moving? Call Olga with a change of address and phone information. You will also need to notify the PCSD Business Office.

Are you expecting a new family member? Newborns are automatically covered during the first 30 days following birth. Enrollment is required during the first 30 days to continue coverage, if you were not previously enrolled for family coverage. From date of adoption, provided family or dependent coverage is applied for within 30 days of adoption or legal custody. Please send a copy of the birth certificate to the PPSTA office.

Status Changes: Members are responsible for updating the plan within 30 days of any changes in health or dental coverage (for any covered member) or any changes in family status (divorce, separation, retirement, birth, death, adoption, change in full time student status, no longer an eligible dependent due to age, etc.) If you need to make changes to your enrollment status, or to the enrollment of any of your eligible dependents, please contact the PPSTA Benefit Trust office.

Do you have a child in college? Dependents in colleges are enrolled in the plan regardless of how far they live from home. There is no Out of Area coverage needed.

Did your child graduate from college recently? All children are covered under their parent's plan until the age of 26 as long as they are enrolled in the plan.

Traveling to a foreign country? PPSTA Medical coverage is limited to Emergency Care and is subject to the Emergency Care Copay plus an additional \$250 Copay for Foreign Travel. The bills need to be detailed in English or which are translated to English with the medical procedures clearly listed.

For a non-emergency situation, if you are out of the country less than six(6) weeks, the \$250 copay would apply to any service and the balance of the charges would be paid as an out of network benefit subject to the NPPO deductible (\$1,000) and coinsurance (30%). When you travel to a foreign country, we recommend you get some temporary travel insurance that is appropriate for the country you will be visiting.

If you are returning from a leave of absence, it is your responsibility to contact the PPSTA office to re-enroll for benefits.

Medicare Eligibility: Once you and/or your spouse are no longer actively employed and Medicare Eligible, you need to update your enrollment status. Please provide the plan with an updated enrollment form along with a copy of your Medicare ID Card. You must enroll in both Medicare Part A and B once you are no longer covered under a plan of a member who is actively at work. You must contact the District for information on reimbursing your Medicare Part B premiums.

QUESTIONS about prescription drug related questions, contact OptumRx at 1-877-559-2955.

QUESTIONS regarding available benefits, including preventive and routine services available to you and your dependents, contact UMR at 1-800-826-9781 Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.

ANY PROBLEMS with the adjudication of claims or with a provider, PLEASE call the PPSTA office~We are here to help!



**APPAREL
PRE-SALE
SPRING 2022**



ONLINE MERCH STORE



**Open your iPhone's Camera
Point the camera at the QR code
Click and shop!**

ppsta.itemorder.com/shop/sale/

**PPSTA SWAG ONLINE ORDERS ARE OPEN
UNTIL APRIL 10TH, 2022**



CLICK HERE

POUGHKEEPSIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

OUR CHILDREN * OUR SCHOOLS * OUR COMMUNITY

TEACH

Stay up to date on your
certification...check
your TEACH account
regularly.

APPR

Need help?
Check out our
own PPSTA
Member Guide!

The PPSTA Scholarship
Committee would love to have
anyone that wants to join! We are
now collecting
COINS FOR COLLEGE
~so if your building needs an
official Scholarship Committee
Change Jar and are interested in
collecting donations please reach
out to us.

ALL donations go directly to
scholarships for our students.

If you have any questions or comments please
email ppstascholarship@gmail.com

Stay Connected!



@ppstapride



[Poughkeepsie Public School
Teachers' Association](#)

Tax Info



For your financial
records, please note:

**Union dues
for 2021 were
\$866.92**

***Also, Educator
Expense Tax
Deduction***

**renewed for 2021
tax returns. Click
here for more
information.**

Please contact the PPSTA
Treasurer Kim Coleman at
treasurer@ppsta.org if
you have any questions.



PPSTA

End of Year Soirée

*Celebrating this Years Retirees
&
Newly Tenured Teachers*

Friday, June 3, 2022
3:30 - 6:30 PM

~~SHADOWS~~
on the hudson

TRUE RIVER ROOM
176 Rinaldi Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Passed Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts
coffee, tea & soft drinks

\$50.00 *per person*

Cash Bar

Please send cash or check to Aileen Lord at PMS
cell: 845-216-2308



Friday
April 8th

wear your
vintage

DRESS FOR THE NEST!

Missing the feel of a new SPARROW'S NEST shirt this year? Us too. But we know you have a few vintage shirts in your closet so show them off on **APRIL 8th** and help us send some love to our recipient families. Be sure to take a picture and send it to us via Facebook or Instagram. And consider visiting our website to make a \$5 donation to help feed a family facing cancer. Oh, and save the date for Dress Down Day 2023 when we'll celebrate 10 years of Sparrow's Nest!

STAY TUNED FOR NEW DATE TO PICK UP SHIRTS



Explore all your union membership has to offer!

When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?



NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvements
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment



When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.

