

From the President...

**REMINDERS :**

- ◆ Notify PTU office of any e-mail/contact information changes.
- ◆ Next Mediation Session is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010.
- ◆ Next Membership Meeting:

**March 20, 2010  
3:45 p.m.  
Union Office**

**Providence Princess**

On Monday, January 11, 2010, the PTU held a dress down day in support of Providence Princess and over \$2,000 was raised.

The proceeds will be used to purchase new gowns, shoes and accessories for this year's Providence Princess event which will be held at the Union office on:

**Friday, April 9, 2010  
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 10, 2010  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Teachers may continue to drop off gowns and accessories at the PTU office. Anyone unable to deliver the gowns to the Union office, may contact Deb Pilkington at 480-4241 and arrangements will be made to have the gowns picked up from your school.

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99 Corliss Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Phone: (401) 421-4014  
Fax: (401) 421-9239  
Website: [www.proteun.org](http://www.proteun.org)

**Proposed School Closures (Facilities)**

Beginning on January 28 through February 5, the Providence School Department held a series of community meetings to discuss the recommendations made by Fanning-Howey to close/relocate seven schools in Providence.

I would like to acknowledge the many teachers that attended and spoke at the public meetings to voice their concerns about their school's potential closing. It was evident that Providence teachers are extremely passionate about their teaching and their school community. It was also encouraging to hear all of the positive remarks made by parents and students about Providence teachers' commitment to providing a quality education for each and every child despite poor building conditions and limited resources available to them.

One thing that has become evident throughout this process is that when it comes to doing what is in the best interest of the students, parents and teachers stand united.

I ask that teachers who testified provide the Union with a copy of their testimony so that we may post it on our website.

**Intervention Schools**

Five schools (Feinstein High School, Woods Elementary, Sackett Street Elementary, Health & Science Technology Academy and Roger Williams) have been identified by the RI Department of Education as "persistently lowest-achieving school". Consequently, those schools must implement one of the four reform models — Turnaround, Transformation, Restart or Closure. I have met with each faculty to address issues and concerns surrounding their school's intervention status. Many teachers have questioned the data utilized to place their schools in intervention status. Therefore, I have scheduled a meeting with a representative from RIDE and the school department to review the data which they relied upon in classifying the above-mentioned schools as a "persistently lowest-achieving school." I along with the Union staff are committed to work closely with the administration throughout this process to ensure that it is transparent.

As I stated during the faculty meetings, it is in our best interest to be an involved party in this process. We have an opportunity to have our concerns, and more importantly, our ideas heard.

**Special Education**

It has come to my attention that several programmatic changes in Special Education is scheduled to occur for the upcoming school year. Many teachers have expressed concerns regarding the impact that the changes will have on the quality of education for Providence special education needs students. At the next building delegate meeting, I will ask building delegates to meet with their faculties and compile a list of issues and concerns with respect to meeting special education student needs as mandated by the student's Individual Education Plans (IEP).

Once the information is compiled, I will request a meeting with Superintendent Brady and his Special Education Directors in order to bring forth your concerns.

**2010 Layoffs**

As March 1 approaches, the Union office has received many calls from teachers inquiring about this year's layoffs.

As of this writing, the Office of Human Resources has not provided the Union with detailed information about this year's layoffs. Our first meeting regarding layoffs is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2010. It is disconcerting that two weeks before the distribution of layoff notices, the Providence School Department has yet to finalize its staffing for the upcoming school year.

The following is the timeline for this year's layoffs:

**February 10:**  
Pre-deprivation letters hand delivered by principals.

**February 11:**  
Teacher Meeting—Classical High School — 3:45 p.m.

**February 22:**  
School Board action.

**February 23:**  
Final layoff letters mailed to teachers.