



Established 1959

# PACE

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*A Publication of Canton Professional Educators' Association*

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Issue 6

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *The Canton Professional Educators' Association initiates and supports positive changes in the public school system, promotes the educational profession, and actively serves as an advocate for its members.*

## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

*We . . . .*

"We" can mean a group of people with a shared interest in a common cause, such as, "We the People." However, if the "We" in the group consists of a leader and a few like-minded individuals, then having an influence or ability to promote change becomes very improbable, even if the "We" of the group represents the beliefs and attitudes of a larger population or association. In other words, alternatives occur when people stand up to be counted, stand up to be noticed, stand up to be "We." That's what unions are. That's what unions do, and that's why unions exist. The success or the degree of success of any given movement is quite simple. How many people is enough to make "We" an undeniable force?

### *What Does "We" Look Like?*

"We" looks like a mass of membership dressed in black at the February 8<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting. There was no question what "We" was on that day. "We" was trying to cram at least 400 to 500 people in a room that typically is attended by 30 to 40 people at a Board meeting. "We" is CPEA members all across the district wearing black on Mondays.

The greatest example of "We" was the meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Palace Theatre. Despite the competing interests on March 17<sup>th</sup>, including the commencement of March Madness, St. Patrick's Day, the day before spring break, school programs during the evening, and a message from the Superintendent stating that all is well in negotiations land, 350 members still attended. Remember, this meeting was called and announced to membership only a few days prior to the Palace Theatre meeting. While this is roughly one-half of our membership, under the aforementioned circumstances, this was an impressive display of "We." There is no question the Superintendent's message was designed to create confusion and lower the attendance rate, and to soften the image of an administration passing off an outrageous initial proposal as simply a dream proposal. The 350 members in attendance are still wondering why the Superintendent dreams about eliminating the possibility of expert CPEA constituents from being educational partners of the district. As it was stated at the meeting, if one man's trash is another man's treasure; then one man's dreams are another man's nightmare.

*So . . . .*

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, this is our greatest opportunity to stand up and be counted, to stand up and be "We." This is the opportunity for "We" to mean everyone! Your power and transformation has been inspiring and uplifting. Remember, it is you who will truly have the most significant impact on the results of our next contract. While I realize there is tremendous confidence in our Negotiating Team, your presence and your ability to be "We" will be the deciding factor. There will be no special words or phrases by the negotiating team, or the Superintendent for that matter, that will directly be responsible for what ends up in print in our contract. However, the Superintendent and the School Board will take advantage of a weak union, a weak "We." CPEA Leadership and the Negotiating Team feel the revelation and movement to carry out our vision of a proper school system that is designed to utilize its greatest asset, our expert teachers. We look forward to the greatest display of "We" that this union has ever seen. We look forward to your presence so that the Superintendent's "dream proposal" will remain just that – A FLEETING DREAM!

## **NEGOTIATIONS UPDATES**

CPEA Leadership would like to take the opportunity to remind our membership that the Canton Professional Educators' Association is the sole entity that represents the best interests of our membership in general and especially in regards to negotiations. Therefore, please disregard any and all comments related to negotiations by the Superintendent. Refer to **Table Talk**, **PACE**, and REMIND for future updates.

### **ELT ELECTIONS**

The election to fill vacancies on the CPEA Executive Leadership Team is taking place between now and April 13th. The positions being voted on are:

- 2 positions at the Pre-K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade level;
- 2 positions at the Middle School level;
- 2 positions at the High School level.

Please remember to vote and return your ballot to the ballot box in your building by April 13<sup>th</sup>.

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CPEA is going to take you **BACK TIME**

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6pm until close at the  
Canton Police Union Hall  
430 Walnut Ave. NE, Canton 44702



Get out your moon boots, Aqua Net, bangle bracelets, leg warmers, pleather jackets, fingerless gloves, and sweatbands. Clean out your closets and join us for an 80's party!

Free Appetizers      Free Admission  
Basket Raffles   Door Prizes   50/50 Drawing  
Cash Bar with Happy Hour Prices  
Special Guest Band Café 80's featuring our  
very own Andy Bruno!  
Prizes for costumes. Mark your calendar.  
Plan to attend. We have so much fun  
planned you won't want to miss it!  
Adult party only. Spouses welcome.  
No child care provided.



### **CPEA SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications for the CPEA Memorial Scholarship for members' dependents, are due May 6, 2016. A drawing for the 10 winners of this \$500 scholarship will be held at the Building Leadership Rep Assembly on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. The application for this scholarship is available online at [www.cpea.us](http://www.cpea.us) or by calling the CPEA Office at 330-455-2158.

Applications for the Nathaniel Roberts and Samuel J. Dorto, Jr. Scholarships for CCS graduating seniors are due April 13, 2016 and are available from the High School counselors.

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### **ANNUAL CPEA AWARDS BANQUET**

Our annual spring awards banquet will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at Skyland Pines. At this event, we will honor our Educator of the Year, Layperson and Community Partnership Award recipients, and our scholarship recipients. Info about our award winners and banquet reservations will be in the next issue of **PACE**.

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### **CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS**

Just a reminder, contract negotiations between CPEA and CCS Administration will resume on Monday, April 11, Tuesday, April 12, and Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Membership will be kept informed of what transpires in each session through **TABLE TALK**.

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Please plan to attend the  
CCS Board of Education  
Meeting on  
Monday, April 11, 2016  
McKinley Downtown Commons  
6:00 p.m.