



Corpus Christi AFT UNION VOICE



CCAFT Weekly Update --- 4/30/14

News You Can Use

1. “Rally for Respect” --a Strong Stand for New Teachers
2. PD Academy at Carroll HS, June 9 and 10, 2014
3. CASA 5K Run, May 3, 2014
4. “Eyes on the Board” – Carol Scott recuses herself from vote
5. Teacher Leaders to Present Research Topics on May 17, 2014

1. **Rally for Respect a Success-** The union and community friends met outside of the CCISD administration building on Monday, April 28, 2014 to defend the right of future teachers to earn a continuing contract. CCAFT appreciates the over 100 people who turned out for the rally in defense of new teachers. CCAFT had 86 CCAFT members sign in that day and dozens of other community people joined us. The other Corpus Christi based AFL-CIO unions such as CWA, AFGE, IBEW and IAM contributed their loyalty to CCISD teachers by demanding that the majority vote on the school board treat our teachers with respect. Without a fair contract, there is no respect for teachers. The four-vote majority on the school board is treating teachers as “at-will” employees who can be fired annually based on high-stakes test scores. The AFT will step up the fight for dignity and respect for educators. The November, 2014 election will provide a clear choice for employees about the future of our profession.
2. **PD Academy at Carroll HS on June 9 and 10th**— Teachers are invited to attend our 3rd annual end of year professional development academy. The union is committed to providing top notch professional learning opportunities for educators. CCISD teachers can register on Eduphoria and outlying districts may call our office to register. The two day training will allow teachers to earn 12 hours of professional development hours. Our classes are all TEA approved and a certificate will be awarded for each class completed granting continuing education credit hours as required (150 hours every 5 years) for certification renewal. CCISD is currently reviewing the PLX exchange credit program and we are waiting to see how our classes will fit into the district’s exchange program. The AFT PD program is nationally recognized and we are proud of the advances our local union is making to provide exceptional, high quality professional development. Visit our website at www.ccaft.org under “resources” to view our summer academy course offerings. Please register and we look forward to working with you! We are sending new AFT members to Baltimore this summer for national training to expand our program and offer new courses. Usha Gurumurthy, Bethany Tipton, Victoria Munoz are three of the new future

trainers headed to Baltimore, Maryland this summer!

3. **CASA 5K Run TOMORROW, Saturday May 3rd**—CCAFT will be at the finish line tomorrow morning at the CASA 5K Run! This is our third year to partner with CASA and we look forward to seeing some of our members. CCAFT will have a table at the finish-line congratulating runners and distributing bottled waters to participants. CCAFT greatly appreciates the services provided by CASA and thanks the CASA volunteers who help many of the children in our public schools through their advocacy.
4. **CCISD School Board Member Carol Scott Recuses herself from Vote based on Conflict of Interest-** The CCISD School Board voted to grant corporate tax abatements and subsidies to a foreign owned company at Monday's meeting. Hector Salinas and Lucy Rubio voted as a minority NOT to grant the tax abatement. The vote allowed Liquefaction and Voestalpine to legally NOT pay their full share of taxes and puts an added burden on the state by allowing the most powerful and wealthy corporate interests to evade taxes. Unfortunately, Texas law permits a type of legal "pay-off" for the company to pay the district to go along with the deal. CCISD will get a check from the company for cooperating with the corporation to qualify for the reduced taxing rate. The really ugly part of the deal is the contract entered into between the corporation and CCISD is a ten year contractual agreement to avoid taxes. We can't even get this board to give its own teachers a 5 year contract for due-process! Here is the real kicker to the deal—Carol Scott quietly recused herself from the vote because of a "conflict of interest". CCAFT is asking for tighter ethics rules on disclosing conflicts of interest publicly at board meetings so the public has readily available information about public officials gaining personally from vendors and contractors the district is dealing with. If CCAFT President Ray McMurrey had not publicly asked which board members had conflicts of interest in this vote, the public at large would not have readily known about the conflict of interest. In the long run, Texas can't adequately fund public education by cutting tax avoidance deals to wealthy corporations. Buying into these deals for short term interest by the district undermines the integrity and quality of funding public education in the state of Texas.
5. **"Teacher Leader" Grant Participants Ready to Present Research-** YOU'RE INVITED!

Dear Friend of Public Education,

You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday May 17, 2014 as the CCAFT "Teacher Leaders" present their Action Research topics to the community at Del Mar College. (FREE EVENT)

Corpus Christi is proudly one of five cities in the United States to receive the leadership based, education research grant awarded by national AFT in 2013-14.

Our local educators representing CCISD, WOISD and Calallen ISD will present their action research topics starting at 1:00 pm at Del Mar College in the Coles Building, Lecture Hall-room 227.

Our vision looks to real educators for the research and solutions to public education. Too often, corporate foundations and for profit companies market their versions of education reform that is mandated to teachers. Meaningful reform and progress must emanate from real teachers. The AFT believes strongly in education research and professional development. Please join us for our action research presentations on May 17th! Below are the topics and descriptions. (call 855-0482)

1:00-1:15..... Presenter: Andrew Martinez, Collegiate HS

“History in My Backyard”

Description: Place Based Learning and forging a personal and historical identity with community—Action research will show how students have learned to use historical thinking skills to discover the history of Corpus Christi.

1:15-1:30..... Presenter: Veronica Brotherton, Calallen MS

“Special Forces: Working Overtime to Help Our Students Succeed.”

Description: New approaches to after school programs helping special education students.

1:30-1:45..... Presenter: Victoria Munoz, Ray HS

“Student Perceptions toward Botany”

Description: The value of outdoor learning in a science classroom implementing hands-on learning versus the traditional classroom.

1:45-2:00..... Presenter: Vani Jaladanki, Ray HS

“Interactive Notebooks: An Arts-Based Approach to Physics Instruction”

Description: Explores the correlation between the use of interactive note books for physics instruction and students' self-efficacy in physics. Also presents the perceptions of high school physics students about using interactive notebooks.

2:00-2:15..... Presenter: Gwen Walbey, Student Support Center

“Teaching Strategies for Diverse Populations”

Description: Emphasis on learning disabilities population, special education interventions—methods of instruction and differentiated instruction.

2:15-2:30..... Presenter: Sandra Fabela, Cunningham MS

“Incorporating/Relating Math TEKS to the Real World Along with Other Disciplines”

Description: Describes how math can be related to other disciplines such as history, architecture and science, etc. in a fun and interesting way.

2:30-2:45..... Presenter: Amy Ochoa, Menger ES

“Can Challenging Behavioral Students Be Taught with Other Students?”

Description: This presentation will be discussing research-based strategies and their effectiveness. Will also be discussing why strategies fail and how consistency and structure plays a role in effective strategies. Documentation of eight students and strategies will show that challenging students can be taught with other students.

2:45-3:00..... Presenter: Rosita Brosig, West Oso ES

“The Benefits of Fine Arts Programs for Elementary Students”

Description: Fine arts courses in our schools enable elementary students to develop their interest and talent in the arts at an early age by stimulating the multiple-intelligences and helping build skills for the 21st century, which can support positive behaviors in classrooms with higher academic achievements.

3:00-3:15..... Presenter: Jane Lee-Rhodes, Kaffie MS

“Promoting Positive Student Attitudes for Success on Eighth Grade Science STAAR through Focused Test Preparation”

Description: A study designed to investigate whether or not using a focused science content review promotes an increase in positive student attitudes concerning their potential for success on the Eighth Grade Science STAAR.

3:15-3:30..... Presenter: Bethany Tipton , Ray HS

“The Flipped Classroom”

Description: Techniques of the flipped classroom and structure of a flipped lesson. The teacher’s lecture is delivered to

students via video outside of the classroom. Class time is used for active problem solving and one-to-one or small group tutoring with the teacher.

3:30-3:45..... Presenter: Anna Adame , Menger ES

“The Effects of Student-Selected Independent Reading on Comprehension”

Description: This study was to evaluate the effects of student-selected reading material and the impact it had on the development of comprehension in fifth grade students.