

A Victory For A.C.P.S.O.P! by Betty Hodson ACP SOP President

On October 17, 2008 I was informed that the District was investigating an ACP SOP represented employee who was suspected of engaging in credit card fraud. The District conducted an internal investigation and concluded that the employee had misused the district credit card by purchasing numerous personal items, had falsified documents and failed to follow district policies and procedures. Unfortunately, these charges were substantiated and the employee was subsequently terminated and criminal charges were filed against her. Another CPS employee was also found to be complicit in this activity was also terminated.

During the internal investigation into the above matter the Account's Payable Supervisor and I were notified that she was also under scrutiny due to inconsistencies of the PNC credit card statements for which she was responsible. On October 1, 2008, she was questioned extensively about her job duties and the established PNC processes by the Investigator for the school district. She was also questioned as to her relationship with the two individuals who had been charged with misuse of the PNC credit cards. The Investigator told us that

all of the evidence was being turned over to the Cincinnati Police Department. She was later vindicated of all charges by the prosecutor's office.

On October 23, 2008 she was summoned to a disciplinary hearing. On November 4, 2008, she was terminated by the District for "gross neglect of duty" and that her alleged failure to perform her duties facilitated the aforementioned employees' misuse of the district's credit card.

This investigation and subsequent appeal of this termination set in motion an extensive audit of the CPS PNC credit card processes. The fraud that was engaged in by the two terminated employees is a serious and embarrassing problem for the District as is the state of the Board's entire PNC Procurement Card Program. The PNC Procurement Card Program was seriously flawed from its inception. PNC representatives warned that it was an immense program that needed a full-time administrator but those admoni-

tions were ignored.

By terminating the Accounts Payable Supervisor, the District attempted to shift the blame from dozens of cardholders and high-level administrators who directly violated the program to a single low-level employee.

On January 8, 2009 ACP SOP filed an appeal with the Civil Service Commission on behalf of the Accounts Payable Supervisor. I am pleased to report that the Commission ruled in our favor and she has been reinstated with full back pay.

This case definitely exemplifies the necessity of having a strong union. Attempts by management to shift blame for their inadequacies onto the backs of employees is an unfortunate but all too real reality. Our only defense against such outrageous attacks, as demonstrated by this recent administrative action, is with the strength created by each of us lending our voice and support to our union's efforts. If employees believe that they are exempt from becoming scapegoats for the Administration, they may want to reconsider their position and become full-dues-paying members.

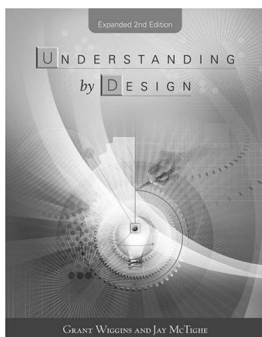


Understanding by Design

Course #538.1296

Grant Wiggins will be at Mayerson Academy on April 28, 2009, from 4:00–6:00 p.m. to discuss *Understanding by Design*, which he and Jay McTigh co-authored in 2005.

The book addresses how teachers know when students understand and how they can design learning experiences that are more likely to result in students' understanding of content and ability to apply it in meaningful ways.



Register at **MyPD** on the **Mayerson** website

Great Teachers Make Great Schools: 2009 Teacher Conference (August 10-11 in Columbus, OH)

Battelle for Kids in partnership with OFT and OEA, are hosting a new statewide conference designed to connect teachers and share best practices in a variety of school improvement areas. The conference will provide participants strategies that they can learn and apply to have a positive impact on teaching and learning in the areas of PK-12.

The keynote speaker will be Ron Clark.



For more information call (614) 481-3141.

CFT/ACPSOP Scholarship Applications

CFT/ACPSOP Scholarship Applications have been sent to all building reps and should be in your building by March 6. The CFT Student Scholarship is for children of CFT members who will be attending their freshman year in the fall of 2009. The ACPSOP Scholarship is to assist ASPSOP members who wish to pursue further education leading to a BA/BS degree. Further information is attached to each application and must be filled out completely to be considered.

The William Sheehan Scholarship is awarded to CPS students that are:

- The first in the family to attend college
- Has a financial need (must provide copy of Student Aid Report)
- Civic Involvement

These applications can be picked up in the CFT Office or downloaded from the CFT Website.

All applications must be completed by 4-15-09.

For more information contact CFT at 961-2272 OR email: cft@cft-aft.org

Tom Mooney Scholarship Applications Due April 30, 2009

The Tom Mooney Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in December 2006 to honor late OFT President Tom Mooney's legacy in public education and union work, and to help others pursue his passions for social justice and political action.

The Tom Mooney Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee selects an annual Mooney Scholar to receive a \$2,000 scholarship. The scholarship is intended to provide an opportunity to a graduating senior from a public high school who plans to pursue a degree in education, history, labor studies or political science. An applicant must be the child of a member (in good standing) of the Ohio Federation of Teachers or the child of any staff person who is employed by OFT or its locals.

Mooney served for six years as the president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers and for 22 years as the president of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers. During that time, he also was a vice president of the American Federation of Teachers. Mooney died unexpectedly Dec. 3, 2006. He dedicated his life to increasing teacher resources and raising student outcomes.

To download a Mooney Scholarship Application visit www.oft-aft.org.

Cincinnati Federation of Teachers Association of CPS Office Personnel

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