

August 16, 2010

Dear CFT member:

We know you have been eager to receive an update on our efforts to negotiate a new contract with Cincinnati Public Schools. Members of the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers bargaining team and I have been working diligently since January 2010 to reach an agreement that will encourage more effective teaching and learning and provide teachers and school employees with the support and resources we need. While negotiations with the school district have stalled, neither side has declared an impasse. Under Ohio law, an impasse would require fact-finding and arbitration.

We are disappointed with the lack of progress, but we remain hopeful. In the coming weeks as we return to our schools and classrooms, there will be several opportunities to meet face-to-face with members to let you know where we stand and to discuss our options for moving forward. **CFT will schedule regional meetings during the coming weeks to give members a chance to ask questions and give feedback. Building reps will receive meeting schedules and distribute them to school sites.**

Our union is committed to making our best effort to reach a settlement that is good for kids and fair to teachers through collective bargaining, rather than arbitration. Until a new agreement is reached, teachers and school employees are working under the provisions of the old contract, and the school district, principals and administrators should not implement any unilateral changes to your working conditions or work rules covered by the agreement.

On behalf of the entire CFT Negotiation Team, we would like to express appreciation to the members for your support during this process. Now more than ever, your active involvement in our union is essential.

Sincerely,

Julie Sellers
President