



Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

Association of Cincinnati Public School Office Personnel
Local 1520, AFT, OFT, AFL-CIO

A Message from President Julie Sellers

High Principles, Collaboration and Strength

You may have seen an article in the Cincinnati Enquirer on Thursday, May 13, on the status of negotiations. I thought it warranted some comments, since even the Cincinnati Public Schools news release that spawned it violated a joint agreement not to talk to the media during the negotiations process.

We live in an historic period when maybe for the first time in the history of public education nearly all eyes are focused on how to produce achieving students ready for a world that's ever changing and more global than any time before. That's a high principle that should unite everyone.

So pressure toward some "essential transformative contract," that is described in the article sounded a bit like, "our way or else," hardly rang of collaboration. We hope it was just a poorly designed media strategy, maybe one born of frustration. After all, historic times turn up the heat, work load, even emotional pressure. We get that.

As we all know from the work we do every day, the road map to that new, challenging place in American education must be based on smart policies, fairness, hard work and collaboration. That, my brothers and sisters, is what your negotiation team is working towards in each of the countless hours we're investing.

Make no mistake. It will take reasonable compromises on both sides. That's the nature of the principled cornerstone of collaboration. And when we're finished that same cornerstone must lead both sides to work jointly to help our students achieve academically and grow as young people ready for dynamic times.

But now it's time for us all to return to finish the final work needed to complete this important contract. And be reminded that a recently signed memorandum guarantees that if negotiations go past the final day of this school year, we'll be able to discuss and vote on our new contract when we return in August.

Though the times we live and work in are as important as any ever seen, and we must enter them teaming with others, be assured that we will always do so from a position of strength that honors and recognizes the essential role we have in educating Cincinnati's children.

office: 513.961.2272
fax: 513.961.0629

email: cft@cft-aft.org
web: www.cft-aft.org

2721 Central Parkway, Suite B
Cincinnati, OH 45225

