

*TWEACHER the Series - Coming to a School
Near You*

By Perez Shillito Lazarus Macy

After reviewing the findings and recommendations of the New Teacher Project, I am frightened for the future of public education in Cincinnati. TNTP seems to be using two of the most popular cultural phenomena as their template. One is used to describe what is wrong with teaching in our district, the other as the solution for all that ails us.

Education is failing in Cincinnati because the current teaching staff is inhabited almost completely by Zombies. - the walking undead - We are soulless slow moving monsters that have little concern for our students. We are slow to change and very clumsy when we try to make any alteration in our direction or practices. Look into those eyes of the teacher down the hall.

Now, one would hope if we could just replace these creatures with normal real people, teaching in our district would improve dramatically.

But no. The findings and recommendations in their report require a different kind of teacher. I call them Twilight Teachers - or TWEACHERS. Like the main characters in the Twilight Saga series of books and movies, Tteachers only need to have been bitten, passing certain powers and beliefs on to their newly uninitiated victims.

First is, they have no need of sleep or rest. Working around the clock is required just to take all the professional development required to get excellent teachers. Because they don't eat, sleep, or drink, any consideration of additional resources to pay them is unnecessary. All these extra responsibilities

and duties are free. Only a little beverage is required.

TWEACHERS are also imbued with super teaching powers - each is a super tweacher. Skills are so great that school climate doesn't matter. How well a school is administered doesn't matter; the vitality of the discipline plan is no concern; the involvement of the student's parents or guardians is meaningless; the economic and educational support students receive and the support of the community don't affect the work they do. They can overcome it all.

*"We are tweachers - hear our call.
AAAWWWUUUUUUUU."*

But the truth is, health reform is simple compared to education reform. I can think of no other endeavor that has so many intermingled components, each of which must be positively impacted to make serious

sustainable progress. CFT is poised to do as much as we can - as much as is humanly possible. We enter into bargaining examining not only the systems that need fixing and that we can impact, but also looking at what we need from the larger community. We cannot do it alone. We are only imperfect mortals, with an altruistic love of students and education and a belief in the perfectibility of society. We are committed to doing good works. But don't forget we need help.