

THIS ISSUE OF JETA DOT BUSINESS WILL BE THE SHORTEST EVER.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE #3

Well, I was looking forward to vacation and figuring that I would write this the week that we got back to school. Then I looked at the calendar and saw that we had one day before it would be March and we would lose out on our advertising revenue for January & February. As a result, this newsletter will be free for a limited time, which is a zero-percent discount from its regular price.

This is the slow time of the year, but it doesn't really seem like it from all the tired-but determined faces I saw around school leading up to break.

On the negotiations front, Jim has asked us to stop for a while as he moves into budget season and negotiations with Local 200. We have finished one long-standing issue, though: a way to get a second course paid with tuition reimbursement funds, which we hope will help our younger members who are working toward their master's degrees.

Speaking of which, the deadline for tuition reimbursements is April 1, and that's a hard and fast drop-dead deadline. I'll send that form out next week to anyone who said they wanted one on their membership surveys.

We are working with the district to change the APPR for the benefit of any teacher who has had to write an SLO due to having a state test. The requirements for this were eliminated quietly during the 2019 budget sessions, and we've provided them with a list of schools in the area that have eliminated this time-consuming requirement for our teachers who already have enough to worry about while preparing kids for those tests. Our APPR committee (Jaime Glantz, Donna Bennett, and Katie Knowlton) has been fantastic about gathering data on this and we hope to get a positive answer back soon.

Thank you to the social committee for the donuts. Those endorphins helped me to cross the finish line last week. We'd like to welcome Bethany Mastronardi from JEDIS and Heidi Seibert from the High School to help out Jen and Christine.

Rumor has it that King Ben Allio will be leaving us at the end of the school year. Rumor also has it that he's been polling in the top three in the National Hockey League's STEM teacher of the month competition. If he wins, the district gets \$10,000 in STEM funds and far more importantly, \$500 for floor hockey

equipment so that I can finally reach my life's dream of starting up a varsity floor hockey team. Please vote for Ben at [NHL.com/mvt](https://www.nhl.com/mvt) today. The contest ends February 28, so today will wrap it up. Let's send him out with a blaze of glory.

Shirts continue to be a bit of a sore spot for us. While the new Katie DeLorenzo-designed t-shirts look great, two months after ordering them, we still don't have our special orders of fleece and running shirts. I'm in contact with the company weekly, and they've been having supply chain issues and an outbreak of the virus. Thank you all for your patience.

Please remember to send an email to your building secretary every day detailing the time you spend preparing or delivering lessons to students who are out with COVID. This is worth \$45 per hour, and Jim has been very supportive of our efforts to reach everyone.

Speaking of COVID, as of Sunday afternoon, we have not heard about any changes to the mask policy. At our last executive committee meeting, we discussed the future and how we would react to it. We know some people are going to want to take them off and run around like Mia Hamm, while others will want to stay masked. We are searching for ways to support everyone with a special attention paid to any teacher who would have concurrent medical concerns.

I heard last week from two friends at the Middle School who were going through it that "COVID sucks." Please get your shots and be careful!

Former treasurer Leo McCormick and his auditing team did their final audit during the month. We haven't gotten an official, formal report yet, but we also didn't hear of any discrepancies. Thank you to Leo for taking such good care of our money for so many years and the Audit Committee for keeping a watch on him while he did.

That's all I can think of for right now. If I forgot anything critical, please reply all, or better yet, drop me a line for April. I'm sorry if I forgot anything, but at this point of vacation, I can't even remember what room I work in. I hope your vacation has been that good too.

While March is usually the longest month of the year in terms, there are only six weeks until spring break. Hang in there.

And as always, the advertisement on the following page from NYSUT Member Benefits helps to keep dues down a little bit, so please check it out.

Till next time- -Dave

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