

OPTA NEWS

December 2021



Check out
www.opta97.com
for contact info,
resources, links &
more.

President's Report

At the December meeting of the Executive Board, the need for a survey of the middle schools was discussed, and the request to complete the survey off of D97 servers was made. Members suggested to Exec Board members and Association reps that they do not feel they are able to tell the truth when data is collected on D97 servers. Questions from a spring survey at Julian will be updated or modified, and IEA has been contacted to host the survey on their servers.

The Executive Board also held a closed session to discuss sensitive personnel concerns.

Please consider applying for a SCORE Grant. The next application deadline is January 15. More information and ideas for projects can be found at <https://ieonea.org/score/>

If you know an amazing TA (and we all do), please consider nominating them for IEA's ESP of the Year. More info can be found at <https://ieonea.org/members/esp/esp-of-the-year-award/>

Bargaining Team Updates

After hosting listening sessions in November, the Co-Lead Negotiators felt a strong need to add to our Special Education representation on the Bargaining Team. Emilie Dolan has been added to the team. Thank you Emilie for your willingness to join the team mid-process.

At the beginning of December, the team was trained with the D97 Bargaining Team about Interest-Based Bargaining, set ground rules, and set dates for upcoming bargaining sessions. The majority of dates will be Mondays in 2022. In addition, the Bargaining Team will begin planning events with the Negotiations Support Team at the end of January. Thank you to all those who volunteered to support our bargain within the building. At this time all buildings are represented on the Support Team.

Please make sure you are familiar with who is on the Bargaining Team and who is on the Negotiations Support Team from each school. Refer to opta97.com for the list of Bargaining Team members.

In Other News

Elections - Congratulations to our elected delegates to the 2022 IEA RA, Hannah Boudreau (Brooks), Adrienne Court (Julian), Ruby Dajani (Brooks), Lary Grimaldi (Brooks), Jim Hayward (Mann), Nichelle Stigger (Brooks), Stephanie Suerth (Brooks), and Debbie Tomollis (Lincoln). Also thank you to our OPTA members who attend the RA as delegates in leadership roles: Gina Harris (NEA Director) and Arnetta Thompson (Region 46 Vice Chair). Upcoming elections for NEA RA delegates (summer) will be held on March 1.

Communications - We encourage everyone to follow us on Facebook both our [public](#) and [private](#) pages. Please participate in our [Membership Spotlight](#) series for our public OPTA Facebook page.

IPACE/ Membership - We are working together to build a more collaborative relationship in D97. We would like to create some small communication groups to meet with BoE members on a casual basis. We will have a group of OPTA and OPTAA members meet with board members for dinner once in January, once in March and once in May. **If you are interested now, have further questions, or would like to be considered for the future, please complete [THIS SURVEY](#) by January 3, 2022.**

Region 46 - Are you interested in politics or policy? Our Region Grassroots Political Activist is looking for members to be added to our GO-Team. Please contact Jonathan Baymon (jonathan.baymon@ieagopa.org) for more information. You can opt in and out of campaigns as necessary so to stay up to date, please email him directly.

Board of Education Meetings - Public Comment - At our October Membership Mania, five members of the BOE came to meet with our membership. They spoke about wanting to hear from our members more about their experiences in the school buildings. Please consider sharing via email. The board will read aloud all public comments received by 7 p.m. on the day of the meeting. To submit a public comment, please email d97board@op97.org with the subject, "Public Comment." Your message must include your first and last name in order to be read aloud.

Important Dates/ Upcoming Events

January 10 - Ed Council (Zoom)
January 11 - Executive Board (Zoom)
January 11 - Board of Education (Zoom)
January 13 - Association Reps (Zoom)
January 17 - Dr. MLK Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
January 25 - Board of Education (Zoom)
February 7 - Ed Council (Zoom)
February 8 - Region 46 Meeting (canceled)
February 9 - IEA Member Meetup with IL Speaker of the House Chris Welch (Oak Brook)
February 10 - Association Reps (Zoom)
February 15 - Executive Board (Zoom)



*Please use a personal device/email to log into session via Zoom. Links can be found on www.opta97.com under Member Resources. Contact Adrienne Court or Stephanie Suerth (communications@opta97.com) for the password.