



Welcome to D97 & OPTA

an affiliate of Illinois Education Association &
National Education Association

Introductions

Lary Grimaldi - Co-President, 6th Grade Science, Brooks

Hannah Boudreau - Co-President, Social Worker, Brooks

Jim Zander - VP Elementary Schools, 4th Grade, Mann

Gina Harris - VP Middle School, C&C Coach, Julian Elementaries

Stephanie Suerth - Region 46 Rep, Early Career Chair, & Communications Coordinator, 6-8 French Teacher, Brooks

Matt Hanser - IEA Uniserv Director, Region 46



Why Join OPTA

Advocacy & Support

OPTA advocates on behalf of our members, our students, public education, and other issues that impact our members in our states and surrounding states.

OPTA is a collective bargaining agent.
*Negotiations started in January 2022.

OPTA provides supports via mentoring, contract interpretation, committee work, and social gatherings.

Member Benefits

- Free life insurance
- Car Insurance
- Renters Insurance
- Home/Auto Loans
- Travel Discounts
- Shopping Discounts
- Student Loan Forgiveness
- Club Memberships
- Cell Phone Service
- Discount Tickets
- AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

nea Member Benefits
neamb.com



Click the logos to access websites.



THANK A UNION

1. Weekends
2. Paid Vacation
3. FMLA
4. Paid Sick Leave
5. Child Labor Laws
6. Social Security
7. Minimum Wage
8. 8 Hour Work Day
9. Overtime Pay
10. Health & Safety OSHA
11. Health Care
12. Dental
13. Vision
14. Collective Bargaining
15. Breaks
16. Wrongful Termination Laws
17. Age Discrimination Laws
18. Raises
19. Sexual Harrasment Laws
20. American Disabilities Act
21. Holiday Pay
22. Military Leave
23. Equal Pay Act
24. Civil Rights
25. Workers Comp

AFL-CIO



Ways to Stay Informed

Building Meetings:

Association Reps will host monthly meetings. You can ask questions, share concerns, or just listen for information.

Meetings of the Membership:

Whole OPTA gatherings dedicated to sharing information.

Tuesday October 11

EMAIL:

OPTA updates and surveys are communicated to your personal email on file.

Facebook: Look for upcoming events, opportunities, reminders.

OPTA [Private Group](#)

OPTA [Public Page](#)

OPTA Website:

Officer/ Committee lists, collective bargaining info, links to resources and events.

www.opta97.com





Seeking Support



#1 - Review our CBA*

CBA = collective bargaining agreement → OUR CONTRACT

- **You have a voice! We want to empower you to use it.**
- You should have been provided a hard copy.
- You can also find it:
 - D97 [Human Resources Webpage](#)
 - OPTA Website → [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#)
- **BOOKMARK IT TO ALWAYS HAVE HANDY**



#2 - Association Reps (in your building)

[Contact the Full Association Representative Team](#)

Building	Representatives	Term
Beye	TBD (two years remaining)	2022-2024
Brooks	Riley Hoerner and Stephanie Suerth	2022-2024
Hatch	Andrew Righeimer	2021-2023
Holmes	Jessica Colella, Jennifer Jaros, and Mike Dolan	2022-2024
Irving	Kara Sakellaris and Emily Tague	2021-2023
Julian	TBD (one year remaining)	2021-2023
Lincoln	Debbie Cooper & Juan Domecq	2022-2024
Longfellow	Leanne Scaro, Liza Marinelarena, and Allison Nelson	2021-2023
Mann	Jim Hayward and Stella Turi	2021-2023
Whittier	Julie Dunn and Natalie Campbell	2022-2024

Please visit
www.opta97.com to
access email links.



#3 - Vice Presidents & Exec Board

[Contact your Full Executive Board](#)

Position	Contact	Term Length
Co-Presidents	Lary Grimaldi Hannah Boudreau	2020-2023
Vice President for Elementary Schools	James Zander	2020-2023
Vice President for Middle Schools	Gina Harris	2021-2024
Treasurer	Jim Hayward	2021-2024
Recording Secretary	Debbie Cooper	2021-2024
Ethnic Minority Representative	Riley Hoerner	2021-2023
Ethnic Minority Representative	Juan Domecq	2022-2024
Member at Large	Jenny Raia	2022-2024
Member at Large	Kara Sakellaris	2021-2023
Region 46 Representative	Jim Hayward	2021-2023
Region 46 Representative	Gabby Rosenblum	2021-2023
Region 46 Representative	Hannah Boudreau	2022-2024
Region 46 Representative	Stephanie Suerth	2022-2024

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#4 - Ed Council (non-contract curriculum concerns)

[Contact the Elected Education Council Team](#)

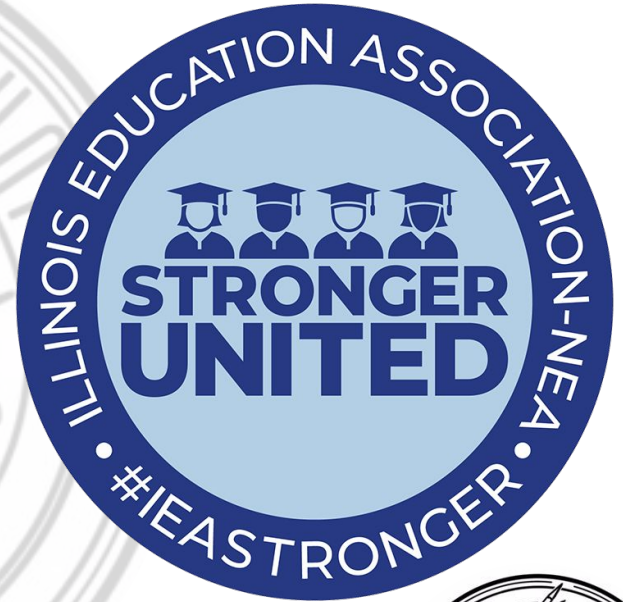
Building	Representative	Term
Beye	Mark Bulger	2021-2023
Brooks	Stephanie Suerth	2021-2023
Hatch	Kelly Valle	2022-2024
Holmes	Dana Brown	2021-2023
Irving	Emile Williams	2022-2024
Julian	TBD (two years remaining)	2022-2024
Lincoln	Julie Jacobo	2021-2023
Longfellow	Jenny Raia	2022-2024
Mann	Rhapsody Armstrong	2022-2024
Whittier	Sondra Nelson	2021-2023
Minority-at-large	Riley Hoerner	2021-2023
Minority-at-large	TBD	2022-2024
Special Education	Jill Wilhite	2022-2024

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access email links.

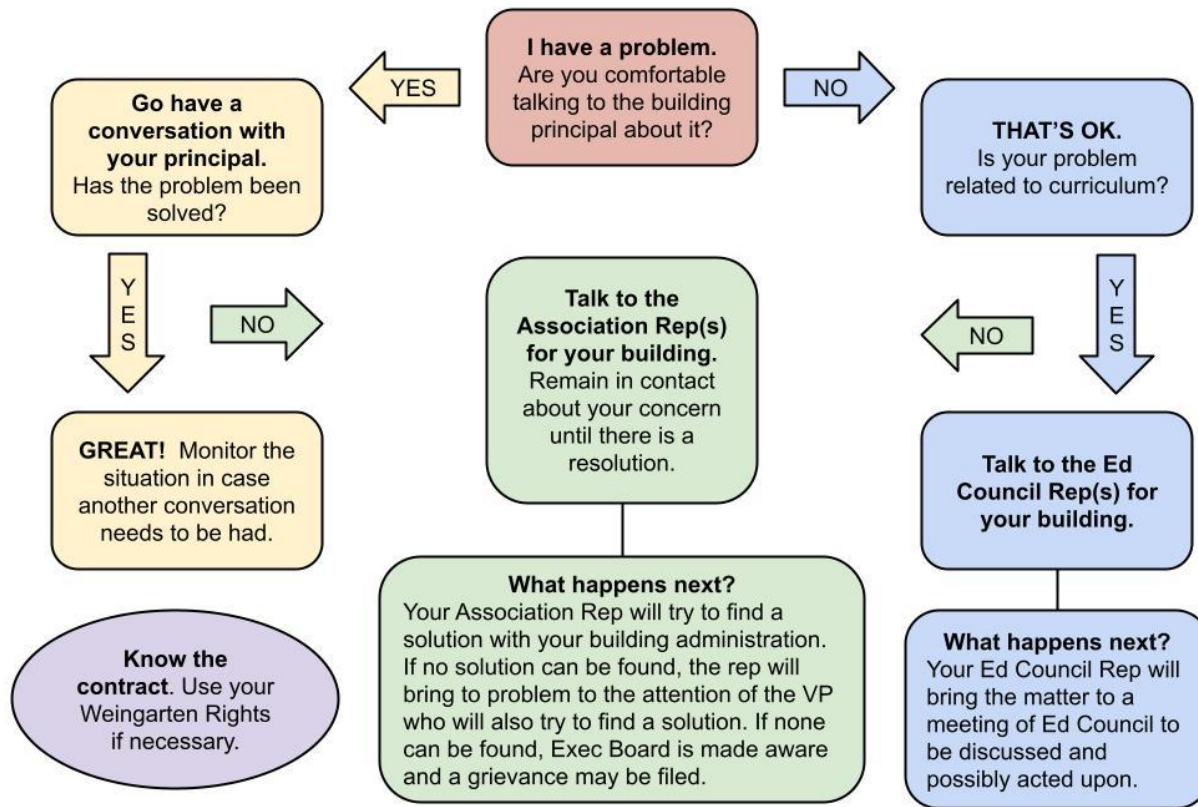


#5 - Uniserv Director (and/or IEA Legal)

- Learn and know our contract
- Advocate on behalf of our members
- Review Board (of Education) Policy
- Support at district level with admin
- Advise our bargaining team
- AND SO MUCH MORE



OPTA Concern Reporting Flowchart



Know Your Rights

Even the simplest question or statement provides you with the same protection as reciting your full Weingarten Rights

Should I call my Union Rep?

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated, or affect my personal working conditions, I request my union representative or shop steward be present at this meeting. Without representation, I choose not to answer any questions.

*** Discussion can mean conversation, telephone call, meeting, zoom chat, etc.

*** You should never be asked to waive these rights for any reason.





Contract Highlights



Always Know Where to Find Our CBA

- **You have a voice! We want to empower you to use it.**
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 - OPTA Website → [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#)
- [BOOKMARK IT](#) TO ALWAYS HAVE HANDY



Evaluations

Pages 16-17
Appendix D

-You will be formally evaluated twice during your first four years. Informal drop ins are common practice throughout the district.

-You should be notified within the first week of school as to who will be your evaluator

-Pay close attention to timelines and make sure your contract is being followed



Salary

Pages 20-35

[Base Salary 21-22](#)

[Approved 403\(b\) Vendors](#)

[Employee Service Portal](#)

- Base Salary (Bands)
- Educational Recognition
- ISBE Endorsements
- National Board Certification
- Retention Recognition
- Leadership Roles
- 403(b) and district match

**Check and *SAVE*
your Components of
Compensation Sheet
annually.**



Insurance

Pages 28-29

[BenefitSolver](#)

- ❑ We are part of an Education Benefit Cooperative
- ❑ All employees pay a portion of their premiums
- ❑ BOE pays a share and you pay a share
- ❑ Benefits are renewed or waived yearly in the Spring, don't forget!



Leaves

Pages 35-40

[OPTA Website](#)

- 13 sick days, donate 1 to sick bank upon hire
- 4 may be used for personal days (and if not used, can be used as sick days)
- 5 religious observance days
- Bereavement Leave
 - 3 days for immediate family
 - 1 day for non-immediate family
- Unpaid Leave
- Parental Leave/FMLA
- Short term/long term
- Sick Bank



Planning Time

Pages 10-11

- Related Service Providers/
Instructional Coaches
- You make your schedule
- Teachers
 - 300 minutes a week
 - 240 individual planning
 - 60 minutes team/dept
 - Minimum 30
consecutive minutes a
day
- Compensation for missed
planning time



Meetings

Pages 9-10

- ❑ 4 Institute Days
 - ❑ 8AM - 2PM
 - ❑ 30 Minute Lunch
- ❑ Up 18 Meetings on Wednesdays that are no longer than 75 mins. in length
 - ❑ See Professional Learning Committee's document for dates and locations.
 - ❑ Communicate with team/grade level leader to be sure you know when and where you are meeting



Technology Tips



Remember...

- ❑ As public employees, everything can be FOIA
 - ❑ Using the District's technology at school and home
 - ❑ Using your personal device on the school's network
- ❑ Keep your social media accounts private
- ❑ Know Board Policy 6:325
 - ❑ *All use of the District's electronic networks must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks or District computers*



Involvement & Resources



OPTA Committees

- Negotiations Support Committee
- Sick Leave Bank
- Grievance
- Insurance (District)
- Minority Caucus
- Legislative
- Calendar (District)
- Teacher Evaluations (District)
- Membership
- Communications/Public Relations
- Early Career
- Elections
- Social



Professional Development Opportunities

- ❑ IEA / NEA offers Professional Development in various areas.
 - ❑ In-person at Lombard Office
 - ❑ IEA Online Learning Portal
- ❑ Most trainings are free
- ❑ CPDUs/CEUs may be offered



Conference & Workshop Opportunities

IEA One Conference - October

Ethnic Minority & Emerging Leaders Training - Nov

Opportunity Coalition's Leaders for Just Schools

Illinois Activist Training Weekend - April

IEA Representative Assembly - March/April

IEA Summer Leadership Academy - July

NEA Racial & Social Justice Conference - June/July

NEA Representative Assembly - July

AND SO MUCH MORE!!!

Our working
conditions
=
Your child's
learning
environment



Early Career Educators & SCORE Grants

- ❑ Score Grant: Encourage early career members and their local associations to collaborate and create opportunities for community service projects or school projects
- ❑ PD workshops, conferences & un-conferences
- ❑ Networking opportunities



Click the logos to
access websites.



Questions?

Stephanie Suerth

ssuerth.iea@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

WELCOME!

Remember to contact your
Association Reps or Exec Board
with any questions!

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!

