

AKRON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

BRiefs

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Snow/Calamity Days: This is the last year districts may use up to five waiver days for snow/calamities. Next year, only three days may be waived; additional days must be made-up.

“Walkthrough” Forms: These forms have been used in some, but not all buildings. The intent of the forms as explained to us by the administration was to allow the principals to provide feedback to teachers on occasions when the principal informally (non-evaluation related) visited the classroom. It was stressed to us by the administration that the forms would not be used for evaluation. That has not been the case, as we have examples of principals using the form to circumvent the language in the Agreement regarding appraisals and observations. In addition, we were assured that copies would not be kept on file by principals. There is obvious confusion within the administration over the forms as evidenced by the use of two completely different forms...one on pressure sensitive paper, one in single copy form. We are filing a grievance contesting the continued use of the forms.

IAT’s: We have fielded numerous angry complaints (all elementary, no secondary) about IAT’s. It appears someone has advised IAT’s that they can (must??) extend a teacher’s workday by scheduling mandatory meetings for grade level teams at 7:30 in the morning or after school, both of which violate the contract. In addition, IAT’s are now adding to teacher workloads instead of assisting teachers with students who are struggling. Just recently we met with the administration in an effort to determine who and what is driving the gradual change we’ve seen in how IAT’s operate over the last few years. It’s safe to say that the changes have touched a raw nerve with many teachers. Our meeting did yield agreement that attendance at meetings is voluntary, but that solves only a part of the problem and frankly may create others. Nothing we talked about did anything to diffuse the overwhelming belief among teachers that IAT’s are being used as a way to avoid testing. While the board may have statistics to refute that belief, they have not challenged the concept by providing year over year numbers showing the number of students tested in APS.

We are expecting a written clarification on the IAT issue; if it does not satisfactorily address the problems, we will issue our own statement.

All Calls: Calls were made last Friday to inform parents and employees that schools were closed due to inclement weather. Some people received two calls. A second call was made if the recipient did not listen to the entire message the first time around and respond as prompted.

The message is being changed so that the advisory to not hang up until the call is completed is mentioned at the beginning of the call.

Grades Due: For elementary and middle schools, grades are due one week after the close of the grading period. For high schools, grades are due at the close of school on the third day after grades close. Language appears in section 3.05 I of the contract:

P. Submission of Grades

Members assigned to elementary and middle schools shall submit student grades to the appropriate office within one week after the close of the grading period. Members assigned to high schools shall submit grades to the appropriate office by the close of school on the third workday following the close of the grading period.

Pay Adjustment Deadline: Friday, 1/15, is the deadline to submit transcripts for pay adjustments for 2nd semester.

RTTT Grant: See Handouts