

The LMEA

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core for LMEA members

March 2021

This Month in COVID

FIRST, this is a good place to refer to Megan Shafer's recent emails with updates to the vaccination process for eligible employees and reminders about the Ace-It testing program, which we believe is a valuable element of our health & safety protocols. Please take a few minutes and read her email, and remember that anyone interested in better understanding necessary leave options should contact HR.

SECOND, as we discussed in our most recent blast at the end of February, momentum is building for fuller classrooms and a reinterpretation of necessary virus protocols. The superintendent sent an update at the end of February, and while it didn't identify a clear timeline, we should begin to shift our expectations and not be surprised when more students begin attending in-person. Examine your work space and think about the demands of your job, and help the planning process by identifying potential complexities and consulting with your principal or supervisor about how to manage them. There will be many logistical problems to solve, and those solutions must incorporate the best thinking about health & safety we can apply.

THIRD, know that LMEA leadership continues to meet with administrators, and that we take every opportunity to remind them how important it is that we not take for granted whatever progress we've made in recent weeks. As government restrictions decrease and vaccine availability improves, we must remember that caution has been one of our best defenses against the pandemic. Abandoning our protocols too early puts us at risk of undermining success, so it's essential that we proceed thoughtfully.

Important Dates in the Contract

April 1, 2021—applications/paperwork for sabbaticals beginning in fall 2021

May 1, 2021—applications for retraining/study leave

May 1, 2021—deadline for using all but one of your IEP days

--over--

Mike Stettner

As we communicated to you through the Blast, we were sad to lose our friend and colleague, Vice-president Professional Mike Stettner in February. His passing was a terrible shock, and we'll continue to remember him, and grieve him, going forward. It has been heartening (but not surprising) to see tributes and condolences coming in from all who knew him locally,

from PSEA Mideast Region President Bill Senavaitis:

Mike was an invaluable leader in the Lower Merion Education Association (LMEA), serving for nearly 30 years in elected positions including Secretary - Professional, Vice President - Professional, and Co-chair - Professional for the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities. Mike's passion for public education and unionism led him to serve in several capacities at the region and state levels with the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA), and as a delegate representing members at National Education Association (NEA) events. His action and advocacy were always focused on the best interests and well-being of his students and colleagues. Whether locally in Lower Merion or at a national conference thousands of miles away, Mike was a soft-spoken, inspirational, and generous leader who used his wit and kindness to make everyone in his circle feel welcome and included.

and from PSEA President Rich Askey:

Dear Lower Merion Education Association Members:

I am writing to express my sincere condolences to you on the loss of your colleague and union brother Michael A. Stettner.

As educators, you are committed to providing high-quality learning experiences to all your students. That is exactly what Michael did as a high school science teacher and a member of the Lower Merion Education Association. I honor his dedication and professionalism in working to support the students and staff of Lower Merion.

As we mourn our brother Michael, let us come together and continue to honor Michael by carrying on his legacy of honorable service. No one knows better than educators and education support professionals how important it is to provide students with the highest quality learning experiences and supports.

I am so very proud of the great work you are doing and to represent you as your PSEA president.

Thank you for everything that you do for public education and your students!

We are grateful to have known him.