



Educators and more since 1942
October 2025 Newsletter



Time to settle in and get some work done!

Well guys and gals it's October and the first long haul of the school year is nearly done. The September thru Thanksgiving period is the most significant break free period in the school year. There is another in the Spring, but this one always seemed to weigh on me as the toughest to get through. By the time late November rolls around I'm about ready to jump.

We all have to guard against that time when kids get comfortable and get complacent in class and behaviors creep into the picture that can make our lives very difficult. I've always taken care to vary instructional practices to get out of the early year rut that can result in boredom for the kids and myself included.

Each of us is under pressure to produce improved standardized testing results and demonstrate a year and a half or better of growth in measured categories. It's not just math and english teachers either. Of course our elementary staff are grappling with all subjects, but at the secondary level staff that have never felt they were responsible for these scores are on notice that they are expected to find ways to incorporate skill practice to help facilitate growth. That is a goode thing.

We are all in this work together and need to shoulder whatever portion of the load we can to help our students succeed and thus our district to demonstrate the growth we need to get out from under the yoke of State supervision. It certainly is not a new concept that we are collectively responsible, but I believe we are all much more aware and engaged than ever before at pushing this work forward as a total staff.

This extended period of instruction in the start of the year is the most consequential time for us to establish in the minds of our students that they must work hard to improve and that we are not going to just let them opt out. Keep your instruction fresh. Vary your approach to classroom routines to keep from getting stale. Continue to engage your students with your personality and let them know you care. Diversify your curriculum as best you can to meet your students where they are and push them to get them to go where you need them to be.

We have an outstanding staff of educators in this union. We have a remarkable challenge in front of us. We are in the most critical stage of getting this work done. Lean on one another to stay sane. Keep your mental and emotional well-being protected as you are tested by the fatigue of the long stretch in the weeks to come. You can make it to the break periods and your students will perform if you continue to show them the way.

We can do this job!

Homecoming is this week for Eastpointe High

By The Honey B's, Bella & Brit Stocks

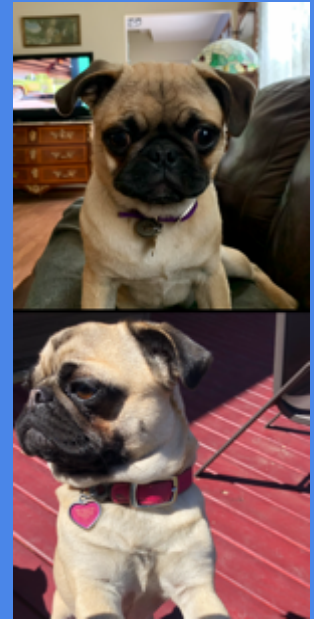
Heeeeeey! Itz us again. Today we gonna tell u about teh homecoming futball game at Memrial Field on Saturday at 1:00.

I gotsta say the guyz on the team r wurkin hard to get better. They 1 a game a cuple a weeks ago when they smassshed Sturling heits team. That was the furst time they wun in a while so it was a PARTAAAA baby. There was a whole buncha teachers there and the team liked it and I think thats why we wun. I think u shud go to this game and have sum fun. Maybe you can get together and have a cook out. They uze to have a parade, I wish theyd do it again. I like to go for walks. Dad says you can cook out at teh union office if you want and walk over.

Brit turnd 5 this week so I got her a bone wrapped with a ribbin. She wants to go to the game but dad is nouncin so im not shure we can go. Maybe if yall start goin then we can make an event outta it. If not this week then next week wen teh last game iz.

We all needz some reason to get off the leash. Im thinkin the union shud get somethin happenin for the last week so we call let are hair down. Whatcha Think?

GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOo SHAMROCKS! BTW, I know the fight song. Do yu?



State budget passes with increases to School funding

So, the state has officially passed its budget.

The school budget increased by 2.5% over last year. The foundation allowance increased by 4.6% to %10,050 per student. That is a \$442 increase.

House Republicans had proposed the consolidation of categorical funding which would have potentially put specialized funding at risk as it would give districts more freedom to use money where they wanted instead of earmarking it for special populations. At risk funding increased by a whopping 25% and other educator friendly programs were funded to assist in smaller class sizes and mental and emotional well-being.

There is a small amount set aside for educator bonuses. The amount we will receive is not much, but we will negotiate to find the best way to apply it to our staff. When details are available, ytu will be informed of what we will do.

Importantly, School meals are funded and the MPSERS reimbursements for retiree health care were funded which allows the cessation of collecting 3% from much of the staff for this purpose.

There were some financial diversions to privates schools for food, and virtual schools. The continued pattern of inclusion of Higher ed in the school aid budget is an important trend to keep track of to be certain that both levels are properly funded in the future. For example, those programs were not increased to the same level as the k-12 budget. There is a developing competition in funding between the two levels within the same budget.

Final Contract publication

We expect that the final version of the contract will be made available by the end of the week. Once the final format is approved it will be published on the district website transparency report and the union website.

Union Website still under construction

We have been working for some time to iron out issues with accessibility to the union website in order to update the information on it and increase its user friendliness.

Matt Vandebrook has been tasked to solve the multitude of problems we have been faced with over the past years that just made its accessibility difficult. We believe we have solved those problems and Matt promises that the work will be completed soon. We look forward to being able to push information out to you on a regular schedule using that platform as a primary communication option.

Here is the link: <https://www.eastpointeeducators.org/>

Another resource we have is our facebook page. It is maintained by Rose Hess. If you have material to share please contact her to promote your work and what is going on as an Eastpointe educator.



VP CORNER

UPDATES FROM SVP



Fall General Membership Meeting

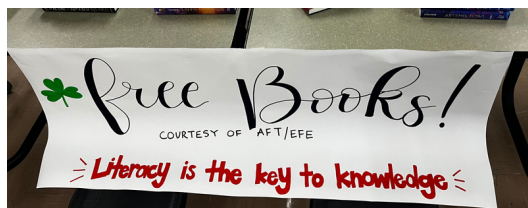
Thank you to all the members who joined us for our first membership meeting of the year! I appreciated the great questions and conversations that happened as a group and individually. I hope everyone enjoyed the snack table! I know us educators are very food motivated...and we could all use a little snack at the end of a long work day. Please join us for our next general membership meeting in the spring, more info to follow!



Parent Teacher Conferences

I hope everyone had a positive and productive PTC night! At the high school, I collaborated with Lincoln to set up a free book table for students and families. Several students asked if they could take more than one book- a win for literacy!

We still have books left at the union office if you would like to share them with your students or take some for your classroom!





Baby's first National Conference!

This past weekend I had the absolute honor of attending AFT's Civil, Human and Women's Rights Conference, right here in Detroit! For more than 30 years, this gathering has united AFT activists, educators, and allies from across the nation to share strategies, build power, and strengthen the fight for democracy and equity.

This year, we met at a critical moment. The threats of fascism, authoritarianism and political violence are intensifying across our nation. Book bans, immigration raids, militarized law enforcement, anti-democratic policies and attacks on historically marginalized communities are spreading with alarming speed. But if history has taught us anything, it is that educators and unions have always been democracy's first responders, and once again, we are called to rise to that role.



Very awkward picture of me having my copy of *Why Fascists Fear Teachers* signed by AFT President Randi Weingarten!



Role playing a scenario where we have to utilize our "ds": Distance, Delay, Distract, Delegate, Document, and De-escalate.



Our affinity group, "The (MARCH)ers", people who all had a March birthday!

To say the weekend was enlightening is an understatement! I was able to hear from leaders of local organizations such as Mothering Justice, 482Forward, and the Ruth Ellis Center. As well as leaders of national organizations such as Transformative Justice Coalition, Race Forward, and United we Dream.

Along with morning and afternoon plenary sessions, I signed up for AFT MOVE training. MOVE stands for Mobilize, Organize, Vote, Empower. In this three part training series, participants were equipped with hands-on experience needed to defend democracy and civil rights. We learned how to design and execute campaigns that use direct action, non-cooperation and mutual aid to protect communities, build solidarity and challenge authoritarian systems. Through practical exercises (such as protest role plays, hassle lines, and role play affinity groups) we practiced mobilizing volunteers, organizing actions and empowering others to take meaningful steps in resisting attacks on our rights.

This conference was not about reflection- it was about action, and preparing ourselves for the road to 2026 and beyond. The future of democracy will not be defended by a few; it will be won by all of us, together!



Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 16th:

AFT Michigan's Queer Caucus meeting, 4:30-5:30pm via Zoom

If you are interested in attending, email Erin Lavin for the link (elavin@aftmichigan.org)

Friday, October 17th:

Secondary Level Open Meeting
Union office, beginning at 3pm

*Join us for sign making for the No Kings protest the following day!
If you plan on attending the protest, get information on how to keep you and your union siblings safe.*

Saturday, October 18th:

No Kings protest in various cities, find the one closest to you! AFT will be present and vocal at these events
Go to nokings.org for more info.

Homecoming football game,
Memorial Field @ 1pm

Thanks for reading!

Stephanie Jovanovski
Secondary V.P.



Community Partnership

Do you have an idea for a union-led community outreach program? Reach out to your building rep or other union leader to share your ideas! We would love to engage with our Eastpointe community members in new ways.