



**Butler Education Association**  
**2017 Negotiations Newsletter #1**  
**March 3, 2017**

Colleagues:

Our current contract expires June 30 of this year. The Butler Education Association has assembled a Negotiations Committee consisting of:

Lyn Lowndes - Co-Chair (RBS), Maryann Vermont - Co-Chair (RBS), April Legregni (ADS), Mark Henaghen (BHS), Jason Luciani (BHS), Joanne Jerez (Secretaries Rep.) and Anita Loranger (Secretaries Rep.).

We would like to thank all of you for your help with our first survey. Thanks to your cooperation, we have been able to establish a list of your demands and priorities, and have been working with Doug Finkel, our NJEA representative, to assemble a set of proposals to present to the Board.

In order to marshal our strongest arguments for the Board, we will need to collect and confirm additional information to provide support for some of our proposals, especially as regards the current health plans in use among the membership. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in obtaining this information, and certifying the results.

The Negotiations Committee would also like to remind you that while we understand how much the health insurance co-payments required under Chapter 78 are eating into your paycheck -- and we share your pain and frustration -- the law provides that employee contributions to health care be phased in over four years, and prohibits unions and districts from making any provisions to reduce the employee contribution until the *contract* after that full, four-year phase in has been achieved.

In our district, the final year of increasing contribution is *next* year -- the 2017-2018 year -- and there is nothing we can do by law in negotiations to prevent that contribution increase from taking place. That having been said, we fully understand that reducing premium sharing is a primary concern of an overwhelming majority of our members, and we will be addressing that issue as fully and seriously as possible.

We will be posting newsletters to the Butler Education Association website ([www.butlerea.org](http://www.butlerea.org)) under the member section in a semi-regular fashion to keep you advised of our progress in these negotiations. You will need your membership number (found on your NJEA card) to log in. If you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding negotiations, please contact one of the committee members or your building representative.

Thank you,

The Committee