



#RU4Ed? Bulletin

Work To Contract (Day 2) – Momentum Builds

Message from President

Day 2 and the movement is growing. To kick things off yesterday we had about 500 teachers and staff participate in the Work to the Contract walk in. Today, that number has grown with early reports estimated to be close to 1,000. Is your school participating? We care about our kids and with 72% of our elementary schools receiving a C or D rating, we know we must take serious action.

A WTC is never easy. Think about those states that went on strike. That was not easy, but they did it for the kids! We have to do the same. We cannot expect things to change if we keep doing what we have always done.

Let's stand together and support each other and let's be the change we want to see.



Frustrated?

Are you frustrated? I am. As professionals who care about our students and our public schools, it is certainly frustrating to have to fight for what is right year after year and day after day. For the past several years, it seems we have been in an adversarial position with the district. Why is that?

As a union, we want what is best for you and the students you teach. Unfortunately, it seems that the current district leadership has a different plan. Think about what we have dealt with over the past few years. We have had a complete restructuring of our health insurance plans and an attempt to end dental insurance. This year, because the district has refused to bargain in good faith, we have seen our costs go up and our pay stay stagnant. We have seen increased workloads, but less time to get the job done. We have seen less respect for the professional knowledge we have with more dictates on what to do, how to do it and when to do it. We have seen attacks on our union and at the bargaining table.

This seems to be part of a bigger plan – to take away your voice and to keep pushing teachers and staff away from VCS. It is frustrating, and I know some are thinking, this is the new normal, so let's get used to it.

We must refuse to accept the destruction of our public schools as the new normal. We must refuse to accept students not getting what they need as the new normal. We must refuse to accept teachers and staff suffering and leaving our district as the new normal.

Volusia is better than this. While we are frustrated and tired, we must not give up, because we care too much for our kids!



Let's 'Walk In' Together

We must support each other. Walking in together helps us do that. The positive effects of our solidarity will last for the rest of our careers. We have to know that we can rely on one another. Meet in the morning and walk in together.

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