



August 23, 2010

TO : ALL PFT BUILDING REPRESENTATIVES
FROM: JERRY T. JORDAN, PRESIDENT
RE : NEW SCHOOL SAFETY & DISCIPLINE – CONTRACT LANGUAGE

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. We all have high hopes for a successful one for students and staff. Toward that end, we all agree that a safe and orderly environment is essential for teaching and learning to take place. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to point out new contract language that addresses school safety and discipline.

You will find the exact language in Article XVIII.E of the contract. It requires in part:

- The Principal and Building Committee in each school to meet to review the Student Code of Conduct and establish best practices for implementation of the Code and its enforcement in the school.
- Behavioral expectations to be distributed to parents, students and staff no later than the first week of school.
- The Principal to give teachers effective and consistent support to enforce these behavioral expectations.
- As part of their regular monthly meetings, the Principal and Building Committee shall review the enforcement and implementation of behavioral expectations.
- Each school shall establish a process that is in line with the Student Code of Conduct for dealing with disruptive students who need to be removed from the classroom.
- Teachers shall exercise their best judgment in appraising student misbehavior; and determining what instructional strategies may address the student's behavioral problem.

- A teacher may use reasonable force to protect himself/herself or others from attack or injury, or to quell a disturbance which threatens physical injury to a teacher or others. Reasonable force shall mean the same degree of physical control over a pupil that a parent would be legally privileged to exercise but which in no event shall exceed the amount of physical control reasonably necessary to protect the physical safety of teachers or others.

I urge you and the Building Committee to meet with your school principal to discuss the implementation of this language.

We hope this language will enable schools to establish the climate necessary for schools to function well. Should you have questions related to this issue, please speak with your PFT Regional Staff Representative or a PFT Information Officer.

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