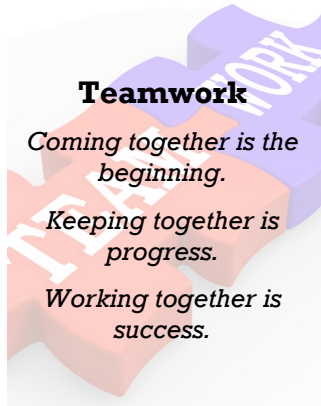


WCSP BULLETIN

WALTON COUNTY SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS



A great quote from Henry Ford.

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From Your President

Hello, and welcome back, Members!

Well, we have put probably one of the hardest years behind us. This year has started and I believe with the Lord's help it will be a better year. Last year we initiated the customer service mantra. I believe it is one of the factors in getting us through that grueling year.

This is our new beginning. We are so thankful and proud of our staff and members for all the things they stepped up to. You are asked to do a to make our students have a successful school year. We respect and admire your work ethics. WCSP is here to help keep you safe and job secured. This summer we negotiated for summer school incentive bonuses. This was only for employees that were not 12 month and that worked directly with the gap bridged students. Working the summer school positions was voluntary. Summer school this year was a federal mandate and federal funds were used to pay the incentive bonuses. We negotiated this incentive bonus with the district and we had conferences with administration about work rights and future contract needs. Such conversations included job assignments and seniority issues. We discussed the posting of new jobs. We tackled utilizing committees in being part of administration decisions. We are attempting to add articles to our contract addressing specific needs of our non-transportation ESP jobs. We will be resuming our monthly meetings via Zoom on the 4th Thursdays at 5:30 pm. We will be planning our goals for this school year and hope you are part of this by joining us. We will be incorporating additional face-to-face brunch meetings about 10:00 am. We will be adding a Facebook page this year to help to communicate to members and potential new members. A very important goal for all this year to keep us up and running is to add new members for a stronger foundation and voice. We need your involvement and your talents to help reach this goal. We also have our website that has electronic membership forms you can fill out and send back to our amazing Manager, Lisa Williams. She coordinates everything for us. We have the amazing Michael Petty that always has our backs and defends our rights. You have dedicated Building Representatives at your work sites. They always willing to assist you. There is our Vice President, Melinda Goodson and our Secretary, Chrisy Weeks. I am always available to you anytime. I have made this my mission to help those in need of assistance. Remember to update both your school and personal email and contact information.

I hope you have a wonderful and fulfilling year.

Your President in Unity,

Victoria Wilkerson

WCSP Bargaining

WCSP Negotiations Update: School doors close, desks are empty, buses stop running when we aren't on the job. As classroom teachers and principals are important and needed, so are we—the hard working support professionals in Walton County. However, we did not get the \$1,000 bonus from Governor DeSantis. This is not right and WCSP and the district successfully negotiated for a COVID-19 Relief Bonus to be paid to all full-time support professionals in Walton County who were employed on May 26, 2021 and are currently full-time employees of Walton County School Board. The bonus payment is in the amount of \$1,076.50, with the \$76.50 covering the taxes. Eligible employees may receive only one COVID-19 Relief Bonus (so if you hold more than one position in the district or received the bonus payment from the Governor, you are not eligible for a second bonus). The timeline for paying the bonus is not finalized. We thank Superintendent Hughes and the School Board members for their partnership and recognition of all our hardworking support professionals in Walton County.

WCSP and the district also successfully negotiated 10 days of COVID-19 Paid Leave for all full-time support staff for the 2021-2022 school year. Eligibility requirements:

- Board-hired in a leave-eligible education support professional position
- Test positive for COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19
- COVID-19 paid leave may be used only for specific duration of the quarantine period, not to exceed 10 days
- Employee must submit written note from a medical provider indicating whether the employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19 with the date of the positive result of the test
- COVID-19 paid leave applies only to the employee's health conditions and does not include other reasons, such as illness of or to provide care for children or other family members

- Employee must submit a COVID-19 Paid Leave Request and required documentation to HR within 30 days of return to work
- COVID-19 paid leave availability will be retroactive to July 1, 2021
- If an employee uses all 10 days of the COVID-19 paid leave, the employee may be required to use accrued sick leave, compensatory time, or unpaid leave.
- Employees who hold more than one position may be allocated up to 80 hours of COVID-19 paid leave.
- Contact HR for answers to specific questions

Further, as contract negotiations continue, we will address specific needs and requests of our many job classifications. We ask that you reach out to your building rep and officers with your suggestions on how we can negotiate better working conditions for you and others in your job classification. Finally, our fight for higher salary compensation continues! We know our worth and our salaries should reflect it!

Your 2021-2022 negotiations team members are:

Victoria Wilkerson—Retiree/WCSP President
Melinda Goodson—WCSP Vice-president
Kat Corneliuson—driver
Marie Joiner—cafeteria
Carol Alessio—bus aide
Johanna Price—clerical
Patrishia Smith—driver
Tiffany Screws—bus aide
Cindy Bickley—driver
Stacey Cordle—custodial
Kim Caudill—clerical
Michael Petty—WCSP Executive Director

We will begin regular negotiations on September 20th. As always, members are highly encouraged to communicate with us and to attend bargaining sessions. Look for emailed updates!

1610 Beck Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405
850-763-3416

Victoria Wilkerson, President
tonyandvicki1126@gmail.com

Michael Petty, Executive Director
michael.petty@floridaea.org

Lisa Williams, Office Manager
lisa.williams@floridaea.org

We would like to offer you an incentive for recruiting new members. For every member that you recruit, you will receive a \$20 gift card and the new member will also receive a \$20 gift card.



WE ARE ON THE WEB!

WWW.WALTONCSP.ORG

Your input is very important to WCSP. Please email Victoria with any intel or feedback.



YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!



WCSP Membership Meetings

Meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

<https://floridaea.zoom.us/j/97774763955>

(312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 977 7476 3955



**WALTON COUNTY
SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**
WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER