



LOCAL 1776
Association of Catholic Teachers

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The Spirit of '76

August 1, 2017

Dear ACT Members,

It is just a month before you will all come together to decide if a fair and just settlement has been reached, one that you can vote to approve. As of today, such a contract does not exist. In fact, there has not been agreement reached on any of the proposals on the table.

The sticking point from the outset of negotiations has been the System's language to significantly alter Article I, Section 8, a clause concerning management prerogatives that has been part of the Labor-Management Agreement since the beginning. It goes to the very heart of the relationship between the System and the Association. It is wording that exists in all other union contracts throughout the country and has existed in every collective bargaining agreement between the Association and the System since 1968.

ACT has repeatedly asked the System why it is necessary to change the wording now. We have asked for specific reasons, what problems have made this section unworkable? We have been given no reasons why such a significant change needs to occur. We hear that the language is too "nebulous," too "vague." The System needs "more flexibility."

When the Association hears words like nebulous, vague and flexibility, about a clause that has been in the contract for 50 years and has served both the System and the Association well, we become concerned about what is really behind the proposal for changing the language.

A.C.T. for Better Catholic Schools



Keep in mind, other System proposals we previously printed in the Newsletter, also remain on the table. For example: three PD days in August, a 7 ½ hour school day with 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after the school day, three preparations, deletion of Teacher Preference Forms, deletion of the 19 hour people and a cut in sick day accumulation. Salary and Medical are also unresolved.

Without the language as it currently exists in Article I, Section 8, all of the System's proposals could become your newest working conditions.

Be assured that the ACT Negotiating Team will be working very hard throughout August up to Labor Day to bring back to you a contract that can be approved.

Your support now is more important than ever.

Please keep both Teams in your prayers.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rita", located at the bottom right of the page.