

PRESS RELEASE

April 3, 2019

Claymont Education Association President:

Dalyn O'Connor



For Immediate Release:

The Claymont Education Association (CEA) supports our OAPSE Union sisters and brothers in their fight for fairness and respect. The members of the OAPSE 390 union provide critical services and support to our students and families in Claymont. We work hand in hand caring for and educating the children of Claymont School District. The CEA is asking that the Board of Education return to the bargaining table – put kids first.

Dalyn O'Connor, President for the CEA states ***“Without the critical services and support of our OAPSE partners, our students are suffering. We are losing up to 2 ½ hours of instructional time weekly due to early dismissals. Children are losing vital support without computer and library classes. Absent our OAPSE partners in education, we can only provide the minimum support services to our students with the greatest needs. The cleanliness of district restrooms and other facilities is of concern. Students are being asked to volunteer to clean restrooms. Additionally, nutritional, well balanced breakfasts and lunches are heavily impacted – meals that for some children are the only meals they may see in a day.”***

Dalyn O'Connor goes on to say ***“Students are expressing their concerns to CEA members regarding strangers in our buildings. The students’ and staff’s unfamiliarity with these replacement workers is creating stress and anxiety across the district and is impacting the learning and social/emotional environment in our district. At the beginning of the OAPSE strike, the CEA requested from the school district confirmation and information on background checks for all replacement workers in the district, we were told that these background checks were not public records. Members of the CEA have shared concerns with District administration about several of these replacement workers, and yet have received no substantive response from the District.”***

CEA President Dalyn O'Conner stated ***“We are asking that the Board return to the bargaining table. We were hoping to ensure a positive conclusion to the school year. We wanted to end the school year focused solely on the well-being of our students and a positive and engaging learning environment, without unnecessary distractions. Unfortunately, the Claymont Board of Education does not seem to share the same goal.”***