To: All New Haven Teachers
From: David Cicarella, NHFT President and Pat DeLucia, NHFT Vice President

May 21, 2021

I. NHFT Election – Candidate Bios

II. NHFT Calendar Vote for SY 2021-2022

III. Open Enrollment/Retirement Workshops

IV. Last Week of School (June 14 – 17)

I. NHFT Election – Candidate Biographies

Click [here](#) to see the biographies for the two NHFT candidates running for the office of NHFT President. Ballots have been delivered to the US Post Office for mailing to all teachers.

Please see the attached election notice [here](#) for information.

II. Calendar Vote

Calendar option 1, a “before Labor Day” start with a full week vacation in both February and April, has been voted upon by the membership. A few pertinent items:

- The Calendar Committee did not feel comfortable making radical and wholesale changes to the calendar options. Therefore the committee tried to keep the options similar to previous years, and thus worked with these existing parameters.
  - A start date of August 25th or 26th for the “before Labor Day” options.
The wide discrepancy of the start dates from the “before Labor Day” and “after Labor Day” calendar was due to Labor Day being rather late this year (September 6th).

- The April break is after Good Friday. When you examine the calendar, this allows for an extended April break. Thursday April 14th will be an early dismissal, followed by no school on Good Friday with vacation continuing for the entire week.

- Calendar Committee members were Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Ivelisse Velazquez; NHFT Executive Board member (Trustee) Joe Gonzalez, Executive Board Member (PreK-8) Iris Festa, and NHFT Steward Jennifer Wells-Jackson, as well as the both of us.

- We were alerted to a last minute error. Yom Kippur was incorrectly listed as Wednesday, September 15. It is Thursday, September 16. We have made the correction and the revised calendar draft has been sent to the superintendent who will include it for this Monday's BoE meeting.

III. **Open Enrollment/Retirement Workshop**

The open enrollment period for teachers to switch health plans has begun and will continue through June 15th. Please call either of us if you have any questions.

We are still planning to schedule two retirement workshops. The dates have been pushed back a bit (we are looking at the first week in June).

- Jessica Criscuolo/Robin Ladson from the City of New Haven Payroll and Medical Benefits Office, respectively.

- Bill Sudol (TRB administrator-retired) for questions on TRB.

IV. **Last Week of School June 14-17**

We received a few questions at Tuesday’s monthly stewards’ meeting concerning the last week of school.

- June 17th is the last day for both teachers and students and is an early dismissal day for both.
High schools:

• The final exams have been canceled and are being replaced with a "Final Project". This is open-ended in that teachers will have wide discretion as to what they create. "Final Projects" will, of course, look very different depending on the course, grade level, etc.

• The final project is not intended to be an alternative final exam. Instead teachers will create an assignment or activity that, in their professional opinion, best illustrates the student's knowledge of course material.

• We suggest the Final Project, while entirely within the teacher's purview to create and grade, not be cumbersome for the students or teachers in terms of administering or grading.

• The Final Exam grade category will be removed from PowerSchool.

• Whatever “grade” is assigned to the Final Project will be incorporated into Quarter 4 grades and averaged among all grades for Quarter 4.

• The last week of school will have graduations for high schools scheduled during the day. Building principals will work with and communicate to their staff the procedures for attending graduations, posting asynchronous work if need be, etc.