April 10, 2020

Dear OEA Member:

Today, the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) released guidance on ethical standards for educators as they engage in distance learning during the COVID-related school closures. The guidance makes clear that the usual educator ethical standards apply to Oregon educators on virtual platforms, and that maintaining those professional standards on screen or in digital communications is critical. You can read the full guidance document here.

Additionally, we have heard questions from many of you about potential changes to required PDU hours for educators. TSPC has reduced the number of required PDU hours for all educators by 12 (about half a year’s worth) for the current cycle. This revision includes educators who will be renewing this year. A full explanation of these changes can found in Section C of TSPC’s memo on COVID-19.

I also wanted to share the recording from yesterday’s tele-townhall for anyone who was unable to join our conversation last evening. If you had hoped to join, but were unable able to due to a technical issue, I would like to apologize. I hope that you’ll find the recording informative and that you’ll reach out to us at OEA if you had a question or a concern that you had hoped to share. In the coming days, our team will be working to update the FAQ on our website with answers to the questions we received during and after our townhall, so please continue to check back for additional information.

We will continue to fight for both you and your students as our elected leaders and state agencies make decisions about how our schools will operate during this extended closure period. Keeping educators safe, ensuring they have fair treatment, and fighting for equity in the education our students will receive are at the forefront of our efforts – and that will not change.

Thank you again for all you do,

John Larson
OEA President