We are happy to win this battle, but the fight to make health insurance more affordable for teachers and SSPs is not over. We must keep a firm foothold and not let up our efforts. Your continued support and action, at public bargaining, and through our email action will be key in gaining this coming plan year! The plan offers a deductible of $1,000 for individuals and $3,000 for families.

Benefits Update:

- Last week the Benefits Board voted to include a Deductible HMO plan as an option for all employees beginning in 136 Days on August 31, 2017!
- In addition, we have a unique and compelling perspective on the dangers guns pose in schools and on campuses. We need your personal commitment to keep guns out of educational spaces. We would like to continue discussion on making healthcare benefits affordable to our members, and all DPS employees. We will also be proposing to limit the District's ability to close and/or "restart" schools in our community and to put in place a moratorium on charter schools.

We have had excellent turnout to public bargaining so far, and we look forward to seeing community members and teachers continue to show their support for making DPS a better learning environment for students and a better teaching environment for teachers.

Our Master Contract with DPS Expires in 136 Days on August 31, 2017!

If you would like to speak at bargaining in support of our proposals to limit school closures and restarts or establishing a moratorium on charter schools, please reach out to Corey Kern.

DCTA Elections:

DCTA elections are now open. Ballots will be distributed at tonight’s Rep Council Meeting and you can vote starting tomorrow. The closing date for ballots will be Monday, March 20, 2017. If you would like to earn 15 hours of recertification credit, you can include $62.10 per month from your dues in your personal commitment. If you have any questions, please contact your Rep.

Reminder - Union Dues Are Tax-Deductible: If you itemize, you can include $62.10 per month from your dues in your deductions.

Upcoming DCTA Events:

• SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING: February 23 & 24

Would you like to earn 15 hours of recertification credit? ASIST is an Evidence-Based Practice designed to teach professionals alike how to recognize suicide risk and what to say and do to keep the person safe until the next level of help can become involved. The 30 medal registration fee (available to DCTA members) includes 2-day interactive training, all participants’ materials, a certificate of completion, as well as continental breakfasts and lunches both days.

Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense: Join CTA member Rachel Barvin in a campaign to keep guns out of schools. Recurrent, legislation that would have allowed anyone with a concealed carry permit to carry a loaded weapon into a school, was shut down in a state House Committee. We can expect legislation like this to continue to be introduced at the state and federal level. More Demand Action has started a campaign. Educators Demand Action for Gun Sense, to fight back against the gun lobby’s agenda. Educators have a unique and compelling perspective on the danger guns pose in schools and on campuses. Click here to endorse a sign-on letter showing your commitment to keeping guns out of educational spaces.

Upcoming Session:

- Master Contract Negotiations:

Stand up for your contract! The next bargaining session is on Monday, February 27, 2017 at North High School at 5:30pm. We would like to continue discussion on making healthcare benefits affordable to our members, and all DPS employees. We will also be proposing to limit the District's ability to close and/or "restart" schools in our community and to put in place a moratorium on charter schools.

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