

>>> Christine Russell 12/07/09 3:23 PM >>>

Dear Fellow MTA Members,

As a member of the MTA, I take issue with remarks being made through an email that has been sent via a “non-tenured” teachers filter. Each member of the MTA has a personal responsibility to become informed of the issues at stake. Every member has the responsibility to do his due diligence when voting on issues as pressing as opening a contract for re-negotiation. This is not a “we/they” issue. Our MTA council representatives are not the only members of the MTA, nor are our elected officers. We are all MTA.

While I am not new to the profession, I am a third year non-tenured teacher with District 207. I understood the consequences of moving from a tenured position to a non-tenured position. As with any new job/career, the “last hired-first fired” rule generally applies when there is a reduction in force. Tenure-tracking would not exist nor would it be necessary without RIF guidelines.

Now is not the time for emotional, hyperbolic language. It is especially not the time for divisiveness, or ill-informed speculation on the part of the MTA membership. I have gone to several meetings regarding our current and future financial situation and the news is grim. It seems as though a reduction in force may be necessary. Now is not the time to place blame. As a group we need to stand united to figure out a game plan and move forward. The first step in moving forward is voicing our opinions. Regardless of whether you feel the contract should be opened or not, every MTA member has an obligation to have his/her voice heard on Friday.

With all due respect, I prefer not to be segregated as a non-tenured teacher. Please do not speak for me. There is strength in numbers and I will make my voice heard on Friday. I may be non-tenured, but I am MTA.

Christine Russell