

Food For Thought

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

~ Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

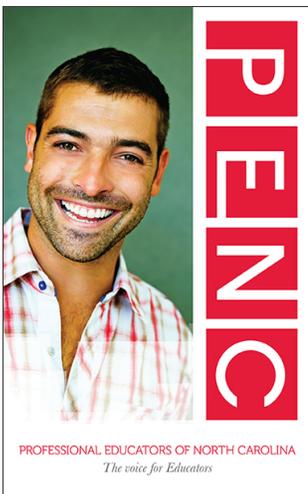
Our Mission

Our mission is to promote education reform for the benefit of all North Carolina children while ensuring the recruitment, development and retention of qualified educators.

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Who We Are

To learn more about PENC, click [here](#).

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PENC Legislative Update

Gov. McCrory Promises to Raise Teacher Pay, Hold Charter Schools Accountable

"Teacher raises will get done this year," Gov. Pat McCrory (R) stated on January 21 at his first press conference of 2014. The wide ranging press conference, which included his cabinet, his Education Adviser Eric Guckian and State Budget Director Art Pope, covered a myriad of issues including Education and Medicaid. The education issues focused on teacher compensation, but no specifics were mentioned.

Gov. McCrory said teacher salaries must be addressed in a way that goes beyond the short session focusing on "results, reward and respect." While declining to share the details of his plan, Gov. McCrory said that he wants agreement on a teacher pay plan with the House and the Senate "first and soon." He repeated these themes during an appearance in Charlotte later in the week at a rally supporting school choice. During that appearance, he also stressed the need for holding charter schools accountable to high education standards. For more information, [click here](#).

On January 23, Gov. McCrory's staff acknowledged that more than 3,200 state employees would get an average salary increase of 4.2 percent. The affected employees work in what the administration called "high-demand professions," such as medicine, accounting, auditing and information technology. McCrory administration staff said that the aim of the raises is to reduce turnover of personnel in these types of jobs. About 1,200 nurses and 600 law enforcement personnel would receive increases of up to 4 percent, and employees in other high demand areas could receive raises as high as 10 percent.

For more information, [click here](#).

PENC Members Appointed to Panel to Consider Teacher Pay

PENC Board President Tim Barnsback and PENC member Rebecca Fagge will serve on a panel assigned to weigh teacher evaluation and pay issues.

The budget bill enacted in July, 2013 included the creation of the Task Force on School Teacher and Administrator Effectiveness and Compensation, which appears on pages 67-69 of [S402](#). The charge of the Task Force is very broad and includes examining methods to measure teacher effectiveness, strategies for retaining effective teachers and the use of incentive pay. House Speaker Thom Tillis (R-Mecklenburg) announced his appointments, including Barnsback, last September. Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) announced his appointments Jan. 16.

The Task Force is charged to issue its report to the short session that convenes May 14 and is due to cease to exist on April 15, 2014. With the lateness of the appointments, the panel will have a lot of work to do in a very short amount of time.

Members appointed by Speaker Tillis are:
 State Representative Rob Bryan (R-Mecklenburg), Co Chairman
 State Representatives Tricia Cotham (D-Mecklenburg), Craig Horn (R-Union), George Graham (D-Craven), Ellen McIntyre, Dean of UNC-Charlotte's School of Education; Rebecca Garland, NC Department of Public Instruction; Tim Barnsback, PENC Board President, Teacher Richard Nixon and Principal Michael Putney, both nominees of NCAE.

Members appointed by President Pro Tempore Phil Berger are:
 Senator Jerry Tillman (R-Randolph), Co-Chairman
 Senators Dan Soucek (R-Watauga), Clark Jenkins (D-Edgecombe) and Ben Clark (D-Hoke)
 Judy Kidd, President of Charlotte Teachers' Association; Leah Carper, Guilford County Teacher; Rebecca Fagge, Winston-Salem Teacher and PENC member; Kim Robertson, a Cumberland County Principal; and Bryan Shoemaker, Iredell County School Board Member.

PENC Speaks at Public Hearing on Teacher Contracts

PENC Executive Director Carol Vandenberg attended and spoke at the hearing which was held at DPI on January 15. NC Policy Watch covered the event and focused on the fact that the event – meant to garner feedback on the contract – was held at a time when teachers would be unlikely to attend. You can view the NC Policy Watch coverage [here](#). You can view Ms. Vandenberg's comments [here](#). To view the draft Model Teacher Contract documents, [click here](#).

[What do you think?](#)

If you have questions or concerns, please share your thoughts and ideas with us.
Contact us at penc@pencweb.org.

Submitted by Evelyn Hawthorne

For more information about the North Carolina General Assembly, [click here](#).
To identify and contact your legislators, [click here](#).
For information about specific issues, please contact PENC government relations consultant Evelyn Hawthorne
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