

February 10, 2009

The **CONGRESS OF HOUSTON TEACHERS** offers these points for members to consider when contacting the HISD school board concerning a proposed change to the consultation election process.

Please do NOT cut and paste these bullet points into an e-mail message.

- CHT has been a part of HISD since 1954 and presently has nearly 1700 members.
- Currently, the Congress of Houston Teachers provides me with consultation privileges, professional liability insurance, a physical office with excellent membership support (via phone, voicemail, fax, email, website, etc.), four catered meetings per school year, a \$20,000 scholarship program, an end-of-the-year teacher recognition and awards banquet and a number of other benefits for \$99 a year. No other organization comes remotely close to offering this kind of value to its members.
- My CHT membership dues have remained at \$99 for three consecutive years. Other organizations have steadily increased in price. The largest teacher organization in the district currently deducts \$22.60 from every paycheck (that's \$587.60 per year). CHT only deducts \$16.50 from six paychecks. I can even write a check for the full amount upfront if I prefer. I'm not sure that other groups allow me to do that.
- Why should I not be offered a choice? HISD has always emphasized the importance of choice to all members of its community. Why are teachers not being afforded the same opportunity to choose as are students and parents?
- If the Board does remove my consultation privileges, will my dues with the new exclusive organization remain at \$99/year?