

Bargaining Hotline

Federal Way Education Association

August 17, 2009 - 4th Issue

Negotiations

The bargaining team worked every day but one over the two weeks ending August 7th; more bargaining is scheduled for the week of August 24th. The team has had as its first priority to protect critical elements of the contract (e.g., responsibility pay, wellness leave, and working conditions) from take-backs. In addition, the team has been bargaining for improvement in compensation and benefits and professional issues identified by members in our surveys.

While it has been a very difficult economic environment to bargain gains, the team is pleased with the work done on professional issues so far and is cautiously optimistic that a fair agreement can be reached on compensation and benefits.

The last couple of days are the most critical in bargaining as all of the issues have been resolved but the most difficult, and settlement of each issue is dependent on the other remaining issues. The bargaining team will be working hard to get the best contract for FWEA members. The team greatly appreciates all of the support offered by staff at different buildings while we were bargaining this summer.

Surveys

The Bargaining Team appreciates the fast turn-around of the recent survey on advisory and work load; the information was very helpful to the Team. Thank you to all who took the time to answer the questions.

Save the Date

What: General Membership Meeting
When: September 1, 2009
Time: 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Thomas Jefferson High School Gym
Purpose: To take a vote on the negotiated contract

Further information:

- Bring a picture ID (your employee badge or drivers license)
- Proxy ballots will not be allowed
- Free child care will be available

Because of the recent constitutional change that combined the Educational Support Professionals and the Certified Teachers, there will be separate ballots for certified members and ESP members. The changes to the coach's negotiated agreement will also be presented and voted on by coaches in attendance.

Because we want our negotiated agreement to be representative, our Constitution and Bylaws now require a quorum of 50% of our members to make a decision regarding changes in the contract. It is important for you to attend! Put this date on your calendar now so you don't forget.