

Bargaining Hotline

Federal Way Education Association

June 8, 2009 - 2nd Issue

Surveys

Surveys are extremely important in the contract negotiation process. The information gleaned from surveys is used by the Bargaining Team to bargain authentic improvements in the contract. If you don't participate in the survey, we won't know what your contractual needs are.

Our first survey was in February. We asked you the one thing that would make you leave Federal Way Public Schools. The Bargaining Support Team analyzed your responses and used them to create the survey you just completed.

More than 71% of our members participated in the last survey and it revealed several common concerns including:

- data days
- equitable classroom enrollment of students with behavior problems, or requiring tiered or differentiated instruction,
- lack of principal support with behavior problems and
- frequent changes in instructional delivery methods.

We are now planning our next survey. It is a forced choice survey and we will use the results from survey #2 to determine the choices you will be forced to make. Done well, this will tell the bargaining team your top priorities.

It is all about you. Please participate in our next survey which will be online.

You do not have to have a computer at home to participate in the survey. The WEA office has a computer lab that is free for you to use. Just create a free Hotmail or Google email account and you are good to go. Make sure you provide your email address to the FWEA.

Stay in touch... summer communication

We need to know your home email and telephone number. Our summer communications will be exclusively through personal (home) email, our website (www.federalwayea.org) and Twitter. Make sure your Association Rep has your most recent email address. We will NOT be using the District's email system for communication. Please see the "Twitter Sign Up" article on the back page.

Planning time question

How important is your planning time? Would you be willing to count the time before and after school as planning? How do you feel about calling collaboration *planning time* instead of meeting time? You will have an opportunity to rate the importance of planning time on the next survey. If you are concerned about these issues, be sure to login to the online survey. It's worth it! Online survey information will be sent to your home email.

Dates of the Bargain

June: 22, 23 & 24
July: 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31
August: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 24, 26 & 28

We owe our negotiators a debt of gratitude. While we are basking in the summer sunshine, camping, and playing with our family and friends, they will be spending their summer cooped up in a bleak room working on our behalf. Please talk to your Association Rep and create a support basket of snacks and toys or encouraging posters and cards. They need to know that we appreciate the sacrifices they are making on our behalf. Take your support baskets to the FWEA office by June 26th!

the bargaining team can bring us a proposal. We could vote to ratify the part that was negotiated and send the bargaining team back to the table to continue to work on the rest of the contract. Or we could vote to strike or take some other action.

How will I get information over the summer?

As of June 17th, all communication will be done using your home computer, Twitter, and the FWEA Bargaining page at www.federalwayea.org/bargain.htm.

FWEA Twitter Sign Up

If you already have a Twitter Account:

Go to www.twitter.com/fwea -- Sign in and request to “follow” by clicking *Send Request*. FWEA will approve your request. Don't forget to add your mobile # AND add Turn Device Updates ON so that you receive a text message on your phone when we update our Twitter.

If You Do Not Have a Twitter Account:

Go to www.twitter.com -- Get Started and Join – Type in your full name (this is important so that we know who you are when you request to “follow.”) Only members will be allowed to receive bargaining tweets. Choose a user name and password, enter your email, enter the secret words, and you are set! Now, once you are signed into your account, follow the directions above so that you can get updates from us.

Turn Device Updates On:

Go to Settings and then Devices and enter your cell phone number. Follow the rest of the directions - you will be asked to send a text message with a code to verify your number. Text messaging rates do apply so make sure you have an unlimited plan or enough text messages on your existing plan.

Go back to the Home Page, click on *Following* in the upper right corner. A list will come up with your friends. Make sure that FWEA/Federal WAY EA has *Device Update* clicked On.

You are now ready to receive tweets!

FAQ's

Why are we bargaining so late this year?

Traditionally, contract negotiations take place during the summer months. Three years ago we agreed to schedule the bargaining dates early for a variety of reasons that were appropriate that year. Bargaining in the middle of the year was atypical for FWPS and FWEA. So, we are not actually starting late this year.

What if the negotiations are not completed by the time our contract is up?

It isn't likely that negotiations won't be completed in the time frame, but if they aren't finished by the end of August we have options.

A general membership meeting can agree to continue working under the old contract until