

From: Merklein, Trip [CO]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 11:46 AM
Cc: Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]
Subject: Member Update/Negotiations 4/30
Importance: High

Negotiations Update As anticipated, negotiations last Monday began focusing on specific compensation issues. Formal proposals and counter proposals have not yet been exchanged, but there is agreement that there must be ongoing compensation to the salary schedule. We return to the table again tomorrow. The next couple of bargaining dates will be dedicated to hammering out the details of compensation and you may take an active role in assisting your team.

Proposals and counters have been exchanged around the use of professional development time *within existing contract time* (Late Start and up to 2 hours of monthly meetings) for *teacher directed* collaborative time. The district team has dropped its original proposal to add 30 minutes of uncompensated time to each day. Further communication about bargaining progress will soon be summarized and provided to you.

Calendar of Negotiations-Related Dates Attached is a calendar shared earlier with your ARs. Please copy it/save it and make special note of a couple of key dates for opportunities for you to support your bargaining team.

Board of Education meetings on Wednesday, May 9th and Wednesday, May 23rd

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: The Board agenda on **Wednesday, May 9th** includes reports on Curriculum Alignment and Review of Assessments. (Think about your workload issues: new curriculum maps, specific focus school demands, the new elementary report card, Galileo testing, etc., etc.) These initiatives have continued to grow over the past two years without appropriate compensation. At every opportunity, teachers have articulated that these are major concerns. Your negotiations team has made this abundantly clear to the district team, but *NOW* is the time for you to speak up and reinforce the seriousness of your concerns by directly addressing the Board. Your voice, straight from the classroom, will provide balance to the official reports delivered to the Board.

Volunteers from each level are needed to speak confidently, articulately and succinctly to the Board on May 9th about workload. Please contact your AR or me ASAP if you are interested in helping out. This is your opportunity to make a difference.

Mark **Wednesday, May 23rd** on your calendar. Depending on the status of negotiations, at the final Board of Education meeting before the end of school, we may want a robust presence to say thanks OR to emphasize that there is more work to be done.

Recruitment Incentive for Members The latest Bridge Newsletter should be in your mailbox soon. Check out the enhanced cash incentive for recruiting members during the annual Open Enrollment. Check with your AR for details or give Kay a call at the office if you have any questions.

Thank you for your membership in SVVEA!

Trip Merklein
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