



The Daily Plate



If you aren't at the table, you are probably on the menu.

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 2009

The Collective Bargaining Update for WWVEA

Dates to Know:

The Negotiators will be meeting with the kindergarten teachers on July 31 at 3:00, @ the WWVEA office, 2nd floor of the Drumheller building, #5.

Tentative dates of Negotiations with WWPS

August 10-14 have been set with more dates as needed.

****August 18****

General Membership meeting
6:00 at Ft. Walla Walla

If we have progressed quickly, we can ratify the new contract at this time, if not, this is your chance to hear how things are progressing at the table and give feedback to the negotiating team.



Fellow WWVEA members, We want to thank all that participated in the spring Listening Seasons and in the staff survey. After listening to what you need, we put together a package of proposals to present to WWPS. Proposals were exchanged at the end of the school year. We have met a few times and will continue with negotiations in early August.

WWVEA proposals include some basic agreement administration and association rights items; employee rights including due process, allegations and investigations, complaint procedures and grading; academic freedom concerning scores from state tests; grievances; purging personnel files; layoff and recall procedures; assignments, transfers, and vacancies; increase in separate contract days; less duties involving supervision; equity in the student contact day between schools; holiday pay (like other employees of WWPS get); language around using teachers to fill in as subs; compensation for meetings outside of the workday;

involving paperwork and meetings for SPED teachers; increase in money in the insurance pool; leave banking to the next year and cash out of incentive leave at per diem; leave sharing; actual input on calendar decisions; indoor air quality; better language around student discipline; and contract duration.

WWPS proposals include exclusive recognition (employees excluded from our contract); staff development; increase in length of workday; aligning language around academic freedom and adopted curriculum with WAC's; duration of observations; recall and layoff language; involuntary layoff language; staff meeting requirements of part time employees; aligning FMLA language with the law; workload; reducing elementary planning blocks to as little as 15 minutes; insurance pooling and separate contract days the same as last year.

Please share this information with all interested parties and it can be viewed at

Food for Thought

Extra contract days:
 If you use only one of your extra contract days to set up your class, that leaves only **6 days or 45 hours** for use during the school year. This amounts to **1 hour and 15 minutes per week** for 36 weeks.



If it harms one of us, it harms us all.

Meet your Bargaining Support Team:

The Bargaining Support Team (BST) is a group of educators that want to give you your voice. We want you to be heard. After all, if your interests aren't being represented then the Bargaining Team loses its credibility with you and with the district office. Without your support, everyone loses.

Lance Longmire, the Bargaining Support Team Chair, has spent the last month organizing individuals to represent their schools and specialty areas. Though the task is not completely finished, he is pleased to report that the initial team is

coming together nicely. Right now we have sixteen educators from preschool to high school, from ESL to PE, who will be helping organize your ideas for our bargaining efforts. Once we have finished organizing our BST, the real work begins.....listening to you.

If you want to be a part of this movement, please contact

Lance Longmire
 wwvealance@gmail.com

BST Members
 BST Chair—Lance Longmire
 Newsletter—Lori Finn

Website—Richard Bartlow
 Wa-Hi—Andrew Gomsrud
 Lincoln—Tim Bow
 Garrison—Susan Bauer
 Pioneer—Richelle Palmer
 Blue Ridge—Corey Hobbs/
 Jerry Hubbard
 Green Park—Robin Peterson
 Berney—Maria Fondahn
 Prospect Point—Leah Taylor/ Laura Reiter
 Sharpstein—Kathy Oliver
 Edison—Kit Chryst
 Spec. Ed, HS—Chris Blackman
 Spec. Ed, Elem—Justin Taylor
 ESL—Laurie Hersey
 LAP/Title I—Sara VanDonge
 Elem. Spec.—Laura Hersey
 PE—Jennifer Knowles
 Music—Denise Hurst
 Library—Joann Savage
 Preschool—Tensi Lovejoy
 Counselors—Eva Hanson
 CTE—Doug Poulson
 Psych/Speech Path—Patty Weeks

Schedule of Events

As we move forward, the BST wants to make sure you are informed of all activities. Our tentative schedule is:

January 6

We will be training all BST members. This training will focus on host to best interview or members in the most informative and least intrusive way. All BST members should plan on attending.

Early January

BST will be facilitating small group meetings at each of the buildings. This is your chance to have a voice.

Schedule of all visits will be out in early December. Please plan on attending.

Late January

Compile information gathered from building visits and communicate to members.

February

Develop and implement survey.

Late February

Compile survey data and communicate to members.

March

The BST will host a "Solutions

Buffet" to gather input from the members on creative ways to solve issues. Come with your out of the box solutions. More info to follow in future issues.

Late March

Compile information and communicate to members.

April to Early May

Develop bargaining plan and communicate to members.

June to Late July

Bargain with district and communicate with members.

Watch for updates in future

Coming Soon . . . A Second Opinion

If you are sick and your doctor recommends a treatment that you don't feel comfortable with, you are encouraged to get a second opinion. Makes sense right?

What if you are confused about some of the information regarding your contract and/or working conditions. Where do you get

a "second opinion". That is where we come in. Email us at wwveaplate@gmail.com with your questions and we will answer it.

If it is a question that we feel can help other members, we may use it in the newsletter. Don't worry! We won't use your name unless you give us permission to do so.