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March 4, 2015

Bargaining Brief

At our first session in February, the HEA came to the table with the primary goal of making up years of financial concessions. We want you to be paid what you're worth. We also want to make our district more attractive to those who are here, and those may come to work for HSD in the future. Because we've lost so much financial ground over the years, this is a very big ticket item.

In our discussions about how to make up for six years of financial losses in a one year financial re-opener, both teams agreed we could benefit from broadening the scope of our conversations to address both salary AND workload. Ultimately, both HEA and HSD made the decision to open up Articles 4 (work day/work year) and 17 (working conditions/safety) in addition to 12, 13 and 19 which are all financial. Our goal is to reach a multi-year agreement.

On Monday, March 2, we met for our second session at the District office. Because we had just made the decision to change the scope of the bargain, this session was devoted to sharing our workload and safety concerns. Both sides gave their list along with a brief explanation of each issue.

At our next session on March 17, we will begin formulating solutions to the issues that were raised. In an era of limited resources and slow state budget talks, timing for the resolution of this whole "package" of financial AND workload resolutions may be slower than both sides would wish.

Currently, the legislative co-chairs of the state Revenue Committee have proposed \$7.235 billion for schools for the next biennium. That is woefully short of what's needed to keep current service levels. In Hillsboro, specifically, it would be over \$2 million short. Education advocates are ALL lobbying for a minimum of a \$7.5 biennial budget for schools, although we are hoping and advocating for \$7.8 billion. These ranges should help you to frame the context of the timing of this bargain. However, we WILL be working diligently to find creative and effective solutions for your workload challenges now!

Next Session: March 17, 8:30 a.m. at the HEA office

Your HEA Bargaining Team:

Maureen Barnhart, Co-Chair, and HEA President
Sarah Coyle, Hillsboro Online Academy
Jill Golay, Free Orchards
Angel Gonzales, WL Henry
Jenny Lassen, South Meadows
Sarah Moskoff, OEA Staff
Elizabeth Nahl, Butternut Creek
Janet Van Wess, Liberty

Lisa Tanedo, Co-Chair, Evergreen

Observing: Bonnie Wakeman, Evergreen and Joseph Vermeire, Miller Education Center



20450 NW Amberwood Drive, Suite 125
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

President: Maureen Barnhart Phone: (503) 645-6776

www.heaoea.org