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March 17, 2015

Bargaining Brief

Your HEA bargaining team met for its 3rd negotiation session with HSD on March 17. We were joined by new HEA bargaining team member Christine Estep, Ladd Acres, who replaced Jill Golay for general ed elementary.

The session's focus was the Interim Assessment: how it is used, why, the role of the gradebook in the picture, and several other overlapping workload issues. The primary goal of the session was to reach a solution regarding the new workload around Interim Assessments. We spent a fair amount of time trading information and perspective so that both sides understand the needs of the other as we work towards a solution. A few creative ideas were shared and we adjourned. Next steps for both teams are to consider ideas and come back together in the next 2-3 weeks.

Both groups are interested in resolving the Interim Assessment workload issues ASAP for obvious reasons - your workload concerns are a big priority for everyone - and also because there is a pending grievance awaiting resolution.

In addition, the state Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs are not allocating sufficient funds to education for the 2015-17 biennium budget. Salem legislators are seriously considering an inadequate K-12 budget (\$7.235 billion which could mean as much as \$4.5 million in cuts for HSD) - and have suggested they will pass it soon. Thankfully all school districts around the state have quickly responded with a resounding call for more money. All district business leaders know that a minimum of \$7.5 billion is needed for the next biennium in order to both fully fund current service levels and add full day kindergarten beginning next year.

It is urgent that your legislator and the budget Co-Chairs know how bad it IS NOW, and will continue to be if they don't allocate adequate funding and resources to schools. If you haven't already taken advantage of Mike Scott's email on Friday please take a few minutes to send an email or letter to those lawmakers by going to the HSD page dedicated to this topic: www.HSD.k12.or.us/AboutHSD/PublicDataPortal/BudgetMatters.aspx

Teams are working on scheduling the next session. Stay tuned and keep up your great work!

Your HEA Bargaining Team:

Maureen Barnhart, Co-Chair, and HEA President
Sarah Coyle, Hillsboro Online Academy
Christine Estep, Ladd Acres
Angel Gonzales, WL Henry
Jenny Lassen, South Meadows

Lisa Tanedo, Co-Chair, Evergreen
Sarah Moskoff, OEA Staff
Elizabeth Nahl, Butternut Creek
Janet Van Wess, Liberty

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



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