
Snoqualmie Valley Education Association
&
Snoqualmie Valley School District

June 9, 2015

Dear SVSD Teachers and Administrators,

RE: Bargaining Update

During the past school year, we have been engaged in discussions related to SVEA/School District bargaining. Those discussions included some reflection on the 2013 bargain, in order to gain a better understanding of what went well, and more importantly what could be improved in the next bargain, including how communication might be strengthened. We have been looking into various options that might lend us a different approach to bargaining, an approach that would be more collaborative, efficient, respectful, and productive. The two of us, along with representation from the Teachers' Association and the District, began working in earnest last February to explore the possibility of a joint-training session for both bargaining teams. Through subsequent discussions and research, it was decided that a training session would be scheduled for the spring.

A full-day training, facilitated by representatives from the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), was conducted on May 19th at the Cedar River Watershed Educational Center. The training, which was well-received by members of both bargaining teams, involved looking at a different way to engage in the bargaining process; an approach that would be more collaborative, open, and focused upon interests shared by both the Teachers' Association and the District.

This training session was a positive step in further developing productive and trusting relationships between members of the bargaining teams as we resume this work next fall in preparation for the bargaining process that is set to unfold later next year. We would like to thank the members of both teams for devoting their time and efforts to this important work: Lynn Bradwell (8th Grade Teacher), Jeff Hogan (Assistant Superintendent), Warren Hopkins (Labor Consultant), Chris Jackson (High School Teacher), Freedom Johnson (WEA Uniserv Director), Tony Manjarrez (6th Grade Teacher), Rhonda Schmidt (High School Dean of Students), Ryan Stokes (Assistant Superintendent), Ray Wilson (Elementary Principal), and Amy Wright (Elementary Principal).

The SVEA has scheduled a General Membership Meeting on June 11th to discuss matters related to bargaining. More information will be provided as we continue our work after the start of school next year.

Sincerely,



Lisa Radmer
SVEA President



Joel Aune
Superintendent