

# EEA/4J Bargaining Update

December 17, 2010



## Bargaining input sessions

In preparation for the reopening of the financial areas of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Bargaining Team will be conducting regional input sessions at the four high schools from 4:00 to 5:00 on the following dates:

January 6: Sheldon cafeteria

January 13: Churchill library

January 18: NEHS library

January 19: SEHS library

## Survey coming

The bargaining survey for all licensed employees is coming in January. When you receive it, make sure you complete it and turn it in promptly to your EEA rep or the EEA office so we can include your views in our preparations for the re-opener.

## Thank you

As we look forward to a well earned break from a trying fall, the Bargaining Team would like to thank you for your assistance. Several events in the last few months have left members exasperated, but your patience and support were extremely helpful in assisting the Team manage these issues. EEA President Dayna Mitchell and other Team members have consistently offered input to the School Board regarding Superintendent Russell's recommendations. They have also given feedback from our members on the effects of staffing ratio changes, urged them to consider early retirement incentives as a cost-savings method, and provided

information to 4J leaders and our members on how the various elements of the first proposal would affect our schools, our students, and our profession. Some of this work happens behind the scenes and may not make the headlines or op-ed sections of the newspaper, but it is critical information on which the District relies.

## Patience and solidarity

4J's plan for next year is not yet finished. We will surely see changes. Many members have privately offered their opinions on school configurations and the like to 4J administrators and the Board, which is completely appropriate. They need our perspective on how such changes affect workload and the quality of education we provide. But we remind all members to continue providing any ideas or opinions regarding the re-opener's elements (salary, insurance, and length of work year) solely to EEA's Bargaining Team. We know it is frustrating when we read or hear something that criticizes our schools, our members, or our profession. However, we have learned from experience and from the wisdom of past leaders that retaliating publicly often breeds even more of the same attacks. While this may sell newspapers and offer some short-lived satisfaction, it does not solve problems. It is important to remember in the coming months that contributing our views to EEA's Bargaining Team allows us all to speak with one voice. This is what gives our Association power.

Have a restful vacation. We certainly deserve it.

## EEA-4J Bargaining Team

**Tom Di Liberto** Chair and Editor, Monroe MS

**Dayna Mitchell** EEA President

**Julie Wenzl** EEA-4J VP and Benefits Coordinator

**Sabrina Gordon** EEA Secretary, Awbrey Park Elem.

**Steve Mayberry** Opportunity Center

**Tad Shannon** Churchill HS

**Jeff Jackson** OEA Consultant