

CEA Bargaining Update #1

The CEA bargaining team met with the District Thursday, 2/23, to exchange initial contract proposals. Each party presented their proposed changes to our collective bargaining agreement and a basic explanation of each.

Many changes are proposed from each team, but we wanted to give you a quick overview of the top 3 items from the October member survey: wages, health insurance cost, and leave. The District is proposing no increase to the salary scale and reducing their contribution to health insurance premiums. We proposed a 1.75% wage increase and a modest increase in the District's contribution to health insurance premiums. Also addressed in the proposals are an addition of sick leave, changes to annual leave and floating holidays (the District proposed a major reduction in leave accrual).

One important side-note. The District is proposing to reduce the length of teachers' contract days from 185 to 182. Many CEA members would also see a reduction in days worked if the teachers' contract days are decreased.

More information can be found on the CEA website (<http://www.matsucea.org/>). The full text of CEA's and district's proposals is posted. We have also prepared a side-by-side comparison of the proposed changes. Look for communication by email, hard copy, and in person as we move through the bargaining process.

The tone of yesterday's meeting with the district was constructive. The parties are currently a long ways apart on the major issues but both sides committed to productive discussions on these tough topics.

The CEA bargaining team,

Vicky Hill
Amanda Johnson
Ernie Kirby
Isaac Menashe
Richard Morgan
David Theriault, NEA-Alaska