

PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

May 2012

12202 E. Main, Spokane Valley, WA 99206 • 509 926-0201 • FAX 509 891-9183 • cvea@aol.com • www.centralvalleyea.org

Certificated Employee Appreciation Week May 7 - 11

The School Board proclaimed Certificated Employee Appreciation Week as May 7 – 11, 2012 on Tuesday night, April 24, urging parents, staff and community members to take time to recognize and acknowledge the impact of teachers and other certificated employees. The week-long celebration is intended to recognize the commitment of all certificated employees who “work to open student minds to new ideas, knowledge and dreams” to ensure “a strong, effective system of public education for all children and youth essential to our democratic system of government.” This includes teachers, counselors, teacher-librarians, specialists, school nurses, principals, administrators and others. [picture below] Central Valley Education Association (CVEA) president Steve Lalonde was joined by executive board

members Heather Graham (right) and Mariann Torretta to receive the Board’s proclamation.

Bargaining

Negotiations for the new contract are under way. The CVEA Team of Twelve has determined the key issues for this bargain, and the Team of Five (elected from the Team of Twelve) have been meeting with the District team since late March. The District and the Association have both presented all of their issues, and we have reached tentative agreement on about a third of them. A few of the issues are “housekeeping”, meaning correcting terminology that has changed or conforming to changes in law.

We are scheduled to meet through May 24th and hope to have a full agreement ready to ratify in the week after the Memorial Day weekend. The Team of Twelve will meet to review the whole contract and must vote to approve by 2/3 in order to move forward.

When that is accomplished, there will be a general meeting held to present the tentative agreement and to answer questions. Five days after the general meeting the membership will vote on ratification. Passage requires a simple majority.

NOTICE Education Increments Deadline Change

Because of the conversion to the new HR/Payroll system, Human Resources will be using an earlier cutoff for education movement on the salary schedule for September ONLY. For a pay increase to be included in your September paycheck all coursework must be completed and paperwork submitted to HR by August 31, 2012. Please be aware that if you are unable to get the paperwork in by August 31, you will NOT miss out on your raise. It will simply be processed in October with a retro amount added for September. For additional information, please refer to the HR newsletter for May 2012.

Health Care Bill: 5940

Sponsored by Senator Steve Hobbs (D-Lake Stevens), the final bill never had a hearing, and the public never had a chance for comment. Although the bill makes major changes to the \$1 billion health care system that covers 200,000 educators and family members, most legislators voted on the bill without seeing it--- including legislators who demanded more “transparency” from the existing health care system. The bill language was made public only minutes before senators voted on it around 4:20 AM





on April 11 when only a handful of citizens and reporters remained in the Capitol.

While the bill doesn't mandate a state takeover of the K-12 health care system, it could potentially force some school districts into the state plan if they fail to provide the data that the bill requires. The good news is that it retains local collective bargaining rights around health benefits. The bad news is that it will have a major impact on negotiations by mandating new goals and premium requirements.

Even a few hours before the bill's passage, some legislators continued to push for the complete state takeover of K-12 health care. Many legislators said lobbying efforts by WEA members played an important role in defeating that ever. Thousands of WEA members e-mailed and called their legislators to oppose the legislation, setting a new record for e-mails sent through the WEA website. Since the session began, WEA members sent more than 60,000 e-mails to Olympia, and more than 800 members traveled to Olympia to lobby legislators face-to-face. Here are the main components of the bill, as passed by the legisla-

ture:

All employees in pooling arrangements who choose medical benefit coverage must pay a minimum premium, subject to collective bargaining.

Employees who choose a "richer" benefit plan must pay higher premiums.

School districts that offer medical, vision and dental benefits are required to:

1. Offer a high deductible health plan option with a health savings account;
2. Make progress toward employee premiums in which the full family coverage is not more than 3 times the premium for an employee purchasing single coverage for the same coverage plan; and
3. Offer at least one health benefit plan in which the employee share of the premium cost for a full-time employee does not exceed the share of premium cost paid by a state employee.
4. In addition, school districts must use an open competitive process to purchase services, except where an open process would compromise cost-effective purchasing; and
5. Make progress on promoting healthcare innovations and cost savings, including significantly reducing administrative costs.

Reporting on health benefits information is expanded from current law, and failure to report would trigger penalties.

Skills Center Branch Campus

Serving as host district, Central Valley is working collaboratively with East Valley, Freeman and West Valley to establish Spokane Valley Tech, a branch campus of the NEWTECH Skill Center. Students could begin attending classes at Spokane Valley Tech as early as January 2013.

A collaborative planning effort continues to identify and recommend rigorous, timely and relevant programs of study for students. Architectural design is underway and will move into high gear following the approval of program recommendations expected in mid-May. Renovation and improvements will begin on the building in August.

The Association and District have agreed that the contract issues around the branch campus staff are complicated enough that it will merit a separate bargaining effort from the current contract negotiations. The new WEA Innovative Schools Guidelines (recently approved by the WEA Board of Directors) will prove helpful in the process of establishing contractual agreement for the staff of Spokane Valley Tech.



WEA RA

The Washington Education Association representative assembly is being held in Spokane, May 17-19. This is the governing body of the WEA. The business of the Association is determined primarily through new business items proposed and passed at the representative assembly.

The CVEA delegates this year are: Vicki Arnold, Dale Bouge, DM Freed, Mary Jo Gilbert, Keith Hoekema, Holli Parker, Josh Kaniel, Jim Osmuss, Scott Knowles, Vicky Jensen, Wally Watson and Steve Lalonde.



NEA RA

The National Education Association Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly (RA) is held every summer during the Fourth of July week. There are only a few cities that can accommodate this large convention. Approximately 14,000 educators come together to consider new business items that determine the work of the Association. It is identified as the largest voting assembly held in the United States. Officers are elected and resolutions are considered and voted upon.

Steve Lalonde, Vicki Arnold, Monica Larson and Scott Knowles will be going to Washington DC this year for the RA. Steve, Vicki, and Monica will be attending as CVEA delegates and Scott Knowles will be attending as a state delegate.

Mark Anderson

We are all aware that there are many challenges in dealing with special education. Some of our members work with students who on occasion become physically aggressive, resulting in staff being hit, slapped, kicked, and even spit on. The district provides Mandt training to address the issue, and it definitely helps. Sometimes more is needed.

In an effort to assist our members we arranged for Mark Anderson, WEA expert on special ed law, to meet with approximately 40 members who deal with these students. The meeting was very productive and resulted in a proposal for a special education law class which will be offered tentatively on August 20. This class will be open to anyone in the district who wishes to attend, not just CVEA members. It is a six-hour class and clock hours will be available. If you are interested send an e-mail to: CVEA@aol.com. the class will be restricted to 40, so it could fill up quickly.

Special Education Boot Camp

Registration is now open for the 2012 Special Education Training/ Special Education Boot Camps. Three sessions, presented by the Washington Education Association Special Education Cadre, will be held this summer across the state.

For a registration fee of \$250, participants will receive five days of intense work on special education issues as well as 30 clock hour credits. The camp will provide hands-on training emphasizing the responsibilities of all educators working with students with disabilities. Certificated and classified personnel, general and special educators, parents, administrators and community agency personnel are all encouraged to attend.

For more information, including specific course content, go to: http://www.washingtonnea.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3272



The Washington Education Association offices are housed in this building in Federal Way. President Mary Lindquist, Vice President Mike Regan and state-level staff (like Mark Anderson) work out of this building.

SUMMER BREAK!



CVEA Retirement Seminar

The retirement seminars put on by WEA Retired fill up quickly. So when several of our members were unable to get into the seminars we contacted Maureen Ramos, who organizes them, to see if we could set one up for Central Valley Education Association. We did arrange for one that was held on April 20 and 21 and it quickly filled up. One of our own retired members, Martha Reese, was one of the trainers. We will plan to do this again next year. Here is an email from one member who attended:

Steve,
I just wanted to let you know that the retirement seminar was terrific! I don't plan on retiring for at least 6 years, and it really gave me lots of facts from experts, ideas from district teachers who have already retired, and time to share with colleagues. I hope these seminars are offered each year, as I want to attend each year until retirement.

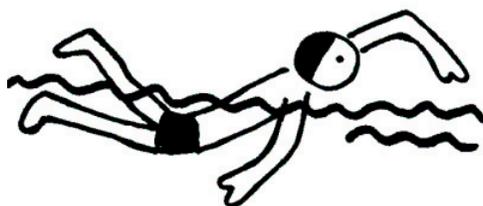
Thanks,
Toni Skeman
Chester 3rd grade teacher

System Training

Below is the text of the Memorandum of Understanding we have with the district concerning the training on the new system software. Please note that the underlined portion identifies that you do not have to do the training during the summer months, HOWEVER, the paid provision only applies then, and the district is very hopeful that the majority of employees will choose to take the training in June or August.

Training for eSchool plus:

The implementation of eSchool plus as the student information system will require that all certified staff be trained in the use of the system. Staff training will be provided as a three hour class to be given in June 2012 and August 2012. There will be multiple opportunities during these two months to complete the training. Teachers will be asked to choose and register for a summer training date. The training will be paid at the teacher's hourly per diem rate for the three hour training. Any certified teacher not completing the training during either the June or August classes will be required to complete the training as a part of the in-service/orientation day on September 4, 2012. If the training is completed on the orientation day it is a regular contract day and therefore will not qualify for additional per diem compensation.



CALENDAR

- May 15, CVEA Building Rep meeting, Cuppa Joe's, 213 S University Rd, 4:00 (last meeting of the year)
- May 17-19, WEA Representative Assembly, Spokane Convention Center
- May 25 - NO SCHOOL (Snow Make-up day not needed)
- May 28 - NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
- June 5, CVEA Executive Board meeting, time and place TBD.
- June 7, Barker High School Graduation
- June 9, Central Valley and University High Schools Graduation
- June 14, District Retirement function
- June 29 - July 6, NEA Rep Assembly, Washington D.C.

CVEA Executive Board

President -

Steve Lalonde
Office - 926-0201
Cell - 842-6768
email - cvea@aol.com
fax - 891-9183

Vice President -

Scott Knowles
Opportunity Elementary
228-4550

Secretary/Treas -

Mariann Torretta
Substitute Teacher

Elementary Rep -

Keith Hoekema
Broadway Elementary
228-4100

Middle School Rep -

Monica Larson
Evergreen
228-4780

High School Rep -

Vicky Jensen
University High School
228-5240

Special Services Rep -

Heather Graham
Greenacres/Liberty Lake
228-4200 / 228-4300