

The Cogs are Turning for the Interim Bargain!



The VEA Interim bargaining team consists of VEA Executive Director, Rick Wilson – President, Lynn Maiorca – President-elect, Kari VanNostran – Primary Representative, Anne Wiley (Roosevelt) – Intermediate Representative, Dave Warner (Fruit Valley)– Middle School Representative, Keith Lloyd (Alki MS) – High School Representative, Rachel Jarnagin (Fort Vancouver HS) – and Special Education Representative, Elaine Fritschie (Lincoln).

As you know we just completed a three-year contract that is effective September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021. This contract comes with an agreement that each side (the district and VEA) may request up to three topics that have minimal or no cost impacts in 2019 and three more in 2020. The proposals can include new contract language or further clarification of existing language. VEA members had an opportunity to provide feedback via a survey that was open March 6 through March 18.

The interim bargaining team met all day on March 20th. Emily Martin from PERC took the team through a bargaining training and the team then disseminated the VEA survey results. It was discovered that many suggestions had cost implications (increasing para support, lowering class size, additional leave, etc.) that cannot be bargained at this time. Some areas that were suggested such as modifying TPEP are controlled by the state statutes and cannot be augmented at the local level. Other entries were noted for discussion at labor management for resolution. All of the suggestions were thoughtfully discussed and noted as concerns from the membership that are not lost on leadership and will be discussed in appropriate arenas.



The VEA team is continuing to work on the language for the final three proposals that will be presented to the district. The next meeting of the VEA team is scheduled for April 16th. Dates to meet with the district are yet to be scheduled... stay tuned!!