

mea Bargaining Update

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MEA Non-Salary Items

Monday, February 23 the parties met for the first round of talks regarding non-financial issues. While the state budget and school funding are still undecided, no one is ready to talk about salaries at this point.

MEA Proposals. Spokesperson Kirk Hinsey presented several recommendations for the 2009-10 Agreement which do not have a substantial financial impact:

- **Class Size.** For over a decade, the district and MEA have maintained a separate Memorandum regarding classroom maximums for K-1, for lab classes, and for secondary composition classes. MEA requests that this *Class Size Memo* be extended for next year as well.
- **Medical Leave Assistance.** MEA proposes that district regulations allow teachers to submit a request for donated sick leave days no more than once each *semester* instead of the current limit of once each contract year.
- **Paydays.** MEA presented language which prevents principals from delaying or restricting the distribution of live paychecks on the last day of school.
- **Professional Day.** The MEA proposal has two parts. The first addition would provide guidelines and standards for required in-service meetings, including pay for in-service that is outside of the normal contract time. The second section provides standards for junior high daily schedules and workloads.
- **Teacher Preparation Days.** MEA proposes that the section regarding the teacher work day between semesters be restored to the Agreement. That section was removed by the district last summer to accommodate the current school calendar.
- **Classroom Assignment.** MEA asks that principals adhere to certain criteria when re-assigning teachers to new classrooms and that those decisions be subject to the Dispute Resolution Process (grievance procedure).

Finances. In a brief update, Dr. Ramirez stated that the district has already lost \$9.6 million from this year's budget – due to legislative action – and may lose as much as \$80 million from next year's budget due to state funding cuts and local enrollment loss.

Future Meetings. Meet-and-Confer sessions are scheduled each Monday afternoon, probably until early April: depending, of course, on what the Arizona Legislature does with school funding. The next session is Monday, March 2, at 4:00 p.m., at the Board Room at 549 N. Stapley Drive. Meetings are open to the public and all district educators are urged to attend.

MEA Bargaining Team: Kirk Hinsey, Chairperson, MEA President and teacher at Powell J.H.; Valerie Angus, EVA; Sue Azizi, Emerson; Joelyn Hilton, Educational Technology; Eric Stuebner, Pomeroy; and Will Moore, AEA Consultant.

On the back – Details about the March 4 Rally at the Capitol