

December 15, 2008

The two sides met at 11:00 a.m. The district did not have any counter proposals prepared. The bargaining team for the teachers presented counter proposals to the district regarding:

Section 2 - Length of Contract. We are working towards a three year agreement and discussing the amount of openers each side is allowed.

Section 6 - Salary Advancement - We countered the districts language with our own. We proposed language defining the type of coursework that would be acceptable for Salary Advancement. We proposed language for EL certification that asks for assistance in taking the preparations class needed for the certification. We said "no" to the language that requires a Satisfactory Evaluation to advance on the Salary Schedule.

Section 7 - We accepted the districts counter proposal that allows bargaining unit members to opt out of sections of the benefits package as allowed by the insurance company. We are waiting for the district to enter into a tentative agreement.

We countered the district's proposal for 15 years of service to receive health benefits, by proposing the removal of the continuous language in the Step and Column Movement section.

Section 8 - the district is going to present their proposal with some changes. We discussed whether these were minimum days or modified days. The bargaining team did not have a counter proposal and agreed to wait for the districts updated proposal.

Section 14 - the district's proposal is being reviewed by our CTA representative.

The bargaining team addressed the district in a discussion about "Opt out" money from this year, that became available to the district. We did not propose an offer, but had a discussion about how that money could be used to help teachers this year with their increased out of pocket healthcare expenses. The district engaged the bargaining team in a discussion, but made no offer.

The bargaining team answered questions that the district had about some of our proposals from December 8th.

We did not address the "Dress Code" language for the Employee Handbook, but I will be wearing a t-shirt and jeans to the rest of the bargaining sessions.

We calendared our next meeting for January 26.

December 8, 2008

This was a long session. The morning started with the district making their proposals for 2.1, 2.2, & 2.3. The district proposed a three year agreement, with one opener.

The next district proposal was for Salary Advancement section 6.3.1. The district proposal sought to define coursework that can be used for salary advancement.

Another proposal in Section 6.3 was for EL certification to be a requirement for future salary advancement. The district also made a proposal to have a good evaluation as a requirement for salary advancement.

In Section 7, the district proposed 15 years of service as a requirement for benefits under Section 7.6.

The next proposal was in Section 8 of the contract. The district proposed language adding student shortened days to the contract to increase teacher training. The days were to be determined by the administrators. Also in section 8, the district proposed regular intervals for computer grading.

In section 14, the district proposed new language for discipline.

Finally, the district made a proposal for us to examine, regarding a dress code for the Employee Handbook.

The two sides went to lunch, and after lunch the bargaining team proposed language for RTI, a testing period for secondary SDC teachers, and improvements to Involuntary Transfer Language.

Have a great break!

Matt Johnson