

## **WSD/WNEA Bargaining 2009 Update**

### **February 25, 2009**

The teacher team and the district teams meet February 19<sup>th</sup> at the MNEA office for another session of this year's bargaining.

#### WNEA Team Members:

Julia Luetkenhaus, Chair, Scott Kiehl, Jennifer Brezeden, Marcia Petrus, Lynne Miller, Lori Roach, MNEA UD, and Steve Geiger, MNEA (Steve will be assuming Lori's duties while she is on maternity leave. We are excited to have Steve on board.)

#### District Team Members:

Susan Hladky, Chair, Keri Monsees, Susan Gauzy, Laura Smith, Ben Hebisen, Phil Ragusky

The teams discussed the issues of transfers, sick leave, military leave, work load, professional development, the release from contract policy and the master agreement. We finalized transfers, military leave and the contract release policy.

At the previous meeting on January 22, 2009, WNEA proposed a memorandum of understanding that would put previously negotiated policies in a master agreement or master contract. In the ground rules for this year's bargain, the teams agreed that tentative agreements would be compiled into a memorandum of understanding and that the memorandum of understanding would be voted on by the Association and the Board by either an accept or reject vote. Upon ratification by both parties, the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the presidents and the bargaining chairs of the Association and the Board.

The items we proposed that would be included in the MOU/master agreement are previously negotiated items that cover Employee Rights, Working Conditions, Compensation and Leaves, Salary and Benefits, and Association Rights. At this meeting the District expressed a reluctance to include anything beyond salary and benefits. WNEA firmly believes that teachers have the same rights to a master agreement/MOU that covers the same issues as other employee contracts/agreements. The district team agreed to further work on this issue and we are waiting to see what progress can be made.

We have not begun work on salary because we are waiting for more firm numbers for the financial picture of the district. WNEA believes items like insurance, stipends and mileage should be bargained.

The teams will meet March 17, 2009, for the next round of bargaining to continue work on these issues.