

## Bargaining Team

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## **Bargaining Update #1: Teachers' Jobs Bill**

We are still in the very beginning stages of our bargaining process. Although the School Board has made public its initial proposal, SEA must still survey members and hold open hearings from which our bargaining position will be developed. More to come on these activities soon.

Recently, **the District has received most of the \$8.8 million in Federal Funds through the Teachers' Jobs Bill** (the Federal Education Jobs Funds). On December 8, 2010, the Bargaining Team met with the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Rita Beyers and Chief Financial Officer, Dianne Russo for an informal discussion regarding the Teachers' Jobs Bill money. It's important to note that in addition, **the district is projected to receive an additional \$10 million in the proposed state budget for next school year.** Yet, at this meeting the **district presented only one option for this money, which was to put all of it into the general fund.**

**The SEA Bargaining Team made four suggestions** that would follow the intended purpose of the Teachers' Jobs Bill legislation and would help teachers and the district for the 2011-2012 school year:

- 1. Apply the money to our benefits cap;**
- 2. End the insurance opt-out program to improve our standing within VEBA, which would improve the health insurance rates for all members.**
- 3. Establish a true retirement incentive.**
- 4. Extend the term of the current contract for 1 year.**

This meeting was strictly an informal exchange of ideas and not part of regular contract negotiations. However, this money came about through member lobbying efforts earlier in the year, therefore, we are working so that both the letter and the spirit of the legislation you helped pass is followed.