

NEGOTIATIONS NEWS

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Welcome to this first issue of "Negotiations News." LEA wants to update our members on what has been happening since August 2007.

As you probably know, your contract will expire on August 31, 2008. This current contract is part of a two-year agreement with the Lincoln Public Schools.

The LEA began on August 2 and 3, 2007, with training in interest-based bargaining based on the Harvard University researched-based model. Peg Williams, recently retired from the Illinois Education Association, facilitated this training.

LEA President Arlene Rea appointed the following members to serve on the bargaining team: Tom Ahlschwede, Southwest; Michael Geist, Southwest; Jan Olmstead, Lefler Middle School; Daniel Ross, Calvert, LEA President Arlene Rea, LEA Vice-President Jenni Absalon, Maxey; and LEA Executive Director Jim Rea.

On October 8 and 9, the LEA and LPS completed another two day session with Peg Williams using the interest-based bargaining process. In November, 2007, the LEA bargaining team attended the NSEA Collective Bargaining Conference.

In the interim, both the LEA and the District have continued to share appropriate data that will be used during negotiations. It is a long-standing protocol between LEA and LPS that both parties agree to and share comparable data.

In addition to the bargaining team, the LEA Negotiations Advisory Council met on October 17 to assist the team with common interests and issues.

The LEA Bargaining Survey was completed in early December by 1,272 LEA members. Data gathered from this survey directs the bargaining team as to what issues are of primary importance to our membership.

The LEA Bargaining Team met November 14, January 9, January 30, February 13, February 25, and March 11.

Both the LEA and LPS have agreed in principle to negotiate in a compressed and intense period of time with the assistance of a facilitator. Peg Williams will serve in that capacity. Tentative dates for bargaining a new contract are April 28, 29, and 30.