

President's Report
May 3, 2010

Nominations and Elections News

Congratulations to Sandy Hunt who was elected to serve as Secretary to the Executive Board for a two-year term beginning on July 1st. Also elected for another two-year term are Sern Watt and Patrick Lamb, who represent the intermediate and high school teachers on the Board.

Next month at the June representative council meeting we will be electing four Rainier UniServ Council Board members to represent Highline. Board members attend an overnight retreat in October and meet approximately four times throughout the year and serve a one-year term. Current representatives to the board are: Dennis Storkson, Deborah Strayer, Clint Long, and Sandy Gady. We will open nominations for RUC board at the June meeting and the election will be held during the meeting. Please share this information with members in your building. Anyone who is a member is eligible to run. Nominations will be pronounced verbally and three minutes will be allocated for candidates to address the representative council.

WEA PAC Drive

Our WEA PAC Drive yielded 42 new members, and while progress is being made, it is far from our goal of 203. We apparently need to adjust our goal for next year based on this year's results. Buildings of honorable mention for this year's drive are Cascade with a total of 11 new members, (way to go Julie Kastien and Theresa Carlson!), Sylvester with 7 new members, (thank you, Shawna Moore, Kevin Comfort, and Jeff Bergeron), Seahurst with 5 new members (awesome job, LeeAnna Hauke and Candace Foland) and AAA with 4 new members (you rock Tom Eaton!). Also, thanks to Bow Lake, Des Moines, Gregory Heights, Hazel Valley, Highline High, New Start, OT/PTs, Shorewood, and Southern Heights for your work on enlisting new members. The winners of the half-day subs are Julie Kastien and Theresa Carlson, both of Cascade and buildings who will receive treats are Sylvester and AAA.

Constitution and Bylaws Review

A committee will be meeting in the very near future to make recommendations for changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of our Association. We have not been yet successful in getting member volunteers to join the committee. I acknowledge that a fair and balanced team is essential and will make every effort to appoint diverse members to the committee. Please see me or Terry Carlson if you are willing to serve on this short-lived but important team.

Retirement Party

Please save Thursday, May 27th from 5-7 pm for our annual gathering to celebrate our member's retirement from serving students in Highline. The location is yet to be announced. Donna McPherson is seeking an appropriate venue for this event.

School Improvement Grant and Transfer Information

Cascade and Chinook school design teams are continuing to meet to plan for program changes for next year. I have requested that the "recommitment conversations" begin on or after May 24th as a result of the timeline under which design teams are operating. A joint communiqué from Don Waring and me providing information regarding the types and processes of transfers will be arriving in buildings shortly.

Contracts for Continued Employment

The district has postponed the arrival of contracts in buildings until May 6th. This means that your contracts need to be signed and returned to your office manager by May 20th. I urge you to sign and return right away if you plan to continue your employment with Highline School District.

Bargaining Update

Team members Richard Dunn, Sandy Hunt, Sandy Gady, Greg Harrington, Heidi Gleb and Candace Foland, and Sern Watt are representing you regarding topics which include advisory, substitute pay, School Improvement Grant issues, Special Education, medical insurance and legislative actions. Three full days this week are scheduled for negotiations. Contact one of us on the bargaining team if you wish to provide input for future sessions.