

## **President's Report**

February 1<sup>st</sup> 2001

### **The Race to the Top Federal Funding Program**

As I have described previously, federal funding for educational programs is being dangled by the Department of Education lead by Arne Duncan. Washington state could possibly be granted \$150 million to \$250 million if we meet certain qualifications. We have already sat out the first round of grants, due to not meeting the qualifications around charter schools. Additionally, teacher evaluation must contain differentiated ratings, rather than satisfactory and unsatisfactory. It further requires that teacher evaluation use student achievement as one measure of multiple measures.

Another component of the RTTT is related to the identification of districts with the 5% lowest performing schools in the state. These districts (of which we believe to be one, we will find out likely by Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>) must implement one of four interventions for the school. The interventions all implicate mandatory subjects of bargaining and are as follows:

- Turnaround – includes replacing the principal and replacing at least 50% of staff with “highly effective teachers”
- Restart – converting the school to a charter school or using an education management organization. (An EMO could exist under a local school board.
- Closing the school- transferring all students to other district schools
- Transformation – includes all of the following: replace the principal, implement rigorous, researched based curricula, increased learning time, using student data to inform instruction, providing appropriate socio-emotional supports, evaluating teachers using a multi-measure evaluation tool, rewarding school leaders and removing those who do and do not produce results in increased student achievement.

Needless to say, if we have a school or schools identified, we will be working closely with the district to bargain appropriate action. The Transformation model will likely be the one that will be most palatable to our members. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

### **The Governor's Education Bills**

Included in your packet and available in PDF form for electronic forwarding is a summary of the bills and WEA's Mary Linqvist's part in helping to shape these bills. See attached.

### **Bargaining Training and Selection of New Team Members**

Last Friday and Saturday WEA sponsored a 2 day bargaining training in Federal Way. HEA members in attendance were: Ali Vrbas, Terry Carlson, Richard Dunn, Sandy Gady, and Tyrone (Jay) Powell. I will be inviting new members to join the team in the very near future and will announce the new appointees when they have been finalized.

