

President's Report  
March 2010

**School Improvement Grant Update**

A comprehensive update is included in the Focus which should be arriving the first week of March. The District is moving full speed ahead for the purpose of applying for the School Improvement Grant for both Chinook and Cascade Middle Schools. The Association and District leaders have commenced talks on the topics of the grant that can be bargained, which include evaluation, incentives and length of work day/year. These will be ongoing discussions which will take place, for the most part, at the bargaining table.

**New Evaluation System**

The Association and the District have agreed that Highline will seek inclusion in the States' pilot for evaluation. If chosen, we would be awarded additional money to help to plan and implement a new system. It was also agreed that 2010-2011 would be a development phase of the plan and 2011-12 would be the year of implementation in Highline. This includes Cascade and Chinook Middle Schools.

**Superintendent's Disclosure at Board Meeting**

Superintendent Welch told the Board and onlookers that teachers at Cascade and Chinook would be interviewed regarding their level of commitment to reform efforts and those who displayed or disclosed reluctance would be given the opportunity to request a transfer to another school. Only after voluntary opportunities are exercised will involuntary actions be taken. This came as a surprise to me and James and I will follow the process very carefully in order to protect Association member rights.

**New Bargaining Team Members**

I have appointed new members to the bargaining team: Greg Harrington, Mount Rainier History teacher, will join the team this year as high school representative; Heidi Gleb, librarian at Pacific, will return; Sandy Hunt, interventionist and academic support person at Beverly Park, will return; Sern Watt will be the new intermediate representative; Richard Dunn, kindergarten teacher from Beverly Park, will be joining the team; and Candace Foland from Seahurst will return as primary representative. We will also rely on input for specific topics from a newly formed bargaining support team.