



AEA Negotiations Update



A Publication of the Aurora Education Association

AEA BARGAINING SURVEY RESULTS IN

This year as always, AEA issued a bargaining survey to collect input from association members regarding their negotiations interests. Given that this is not a full contract negotiations, and therefore only two items or issues, and compensation and benefits can be addressed, our bargaining survey was limited in scope.

Beyond asking the usual questions we generally ask on bargaining surveys, we also asked questions regarding the APS budget cutting process, which was already in progress. The purpose of these questions was to not only request that members share their interests on some of the same proposals being put forth by the district, but to get reaction to other potential solutions to the budget crisis.

Over one thousand AEA members responded to the survey. At 68% of the AEA membership this is a significant return, in particular because teachers have been inundated with surveys this year, and had completed the district climate survey just prior to the release of the AEA bargaining survey.

Some results of the negotiations survey have been posted on the AEA website under the Negotiations link, <http://www.auroraea.org/negotiations.htm> and members are encouraged to check there for specific results. Of particular note are the responses to our question about the focus teachers wanted AEA to direct our energies toward in negotiations. By an overwhelming percentage every level indicated they wanted AEA to focus on maintaining steps and lanes in negotiations....in other words teachers are telling us they **DO NOT** want their steps and lanes frozen for the '10-'11 school year. This interest is counter to the Administration's position of maintaining "steps and lanes" in the top quadrant of their budget cutting matrix, indicating an imposed freeze. We want to make sure that Administration and the Board of Education understand clearly our members interests.

The next round of negotiations between the AEA and APS is scheduled for this Friday, April 9th from 8-4. Bargaining teams will focus on concluding our work on Article 37 (Discipline). AEA is working toward language that will make the discipline procedure a more transparent and fair process for teachers. The teams will then begin negotiations on compensation issues. AEA members are encouraged to wear **RED** and their bargaining buttons in support of your team.

We anticipate having new information to communicate to AEA members by the end of bargaining on Friday. AEA members should look for an update through our usual communication channels.