

From: MEA Bargaining Team  
To: All MEA Members  
Re: Update on Contractual Issues

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

As we have mentioned before, as a negotiations team, we want to continue to keep you informed as we work through some serious issues that we are facing this year.

Matt Heys, Chief Negotiator, and Molly Erickson, MEA President, have been meeting with MPS and SimplyWell to develop the wellness program for this year. Principals should have sent out information about being a Wellness Champion in your building. If you are interested please be sure to let him/her know! SimplyWell will be sending out their first pieces of information in the next week. The three things that will be required for your participation this year:

1. Log-in to the SimplyWell website and get your personal log-in and password.
2. Take the on-line health questionnaire through the SimplyWell website.
3. Have a health screening completed by your personal physician or at a SimplyWell Clinic.

Molly Erickson, Chad Meisgeier, Jackee Wise, and Mark McGuire, NSEA Attorney, met on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. We asked many questions about the Wellness Program; our goal is to ensure that our member's rights are being protected. There have been modifications to both the Physician's Release Form and the Health Questionnaire as MEA, NSEA and MPS worked together through these issues. The final document being evaluated is the Consent Form. I will update on this final piece as soon as more information is available.

The entire negotiations team met with Ron Goldenstein, NSEA Bargaining Expert, to discuss concerns the team has in regards to our contract. Ron is doing some research for the team and we will have a follow-up meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to further discuss these issues. There will be a survey sent to the membership similar to what has happened in the past, however after last year we already have some focus. Our top five issues for the 2012-2013 contract are:

1. Salary Overtake
2. Wellness
3. NBCTS
4. Cash Option
5. Extra Duty

The Extra Duty Committee met on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The goals of the committee are to investigate middle and high school coaching job descriptions and pay, investigate the potential for getting extra duties back to a percent of the base, and investigate how and when stipends are paid. The first jobs that will be reviewed are high school head coaches. Surveys will be sent out and meetings will be set up with these coaches in the next few weeks.