

February 2015

NOME EA NEWSLETTER

TO PROMOTE EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR NOME'S STUDENTS BY SUPPORTING TEACHERS

Bargaining Timeline

2016 is the last year of our current negotiated agreement. Your bargaining team (Kent Runion, Lucas Frost, Lisa Leeper, Kathy Horner and Meghan Ten Eyck) have been meeting to prepare for our upcoming meetings. Here is a summary of the process.

DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

During this time, the bargaining team and its support group made an effort to collect information about what is important to you. We tried to spend time talking with each of you, but if for some reason we didn't, please let a members of the bargaining team know. This information has been useful in planning. Some common themes have emerged, such as student/teacher safety, prep time and cost of living.

MARCH

At the moment, both Nome EA and NPS are pursuing an interest-based model. This model is meant to be collaborative and help both sides reach a win-win situation. We will be meeting with a facilitator and bargaining during the week of March 21.

MARCH AND BEYOND

After an agreement is reached, it will be put to the membership for a ratification vote. If it is approved by us and the school board, the process is finished.



NEA-AK Priorities

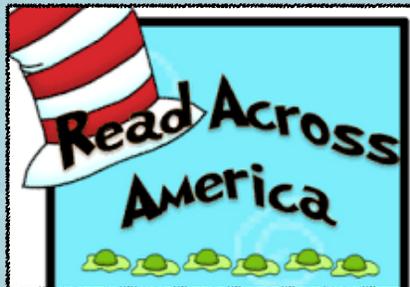
Last month at NEA-AK Delegate Assembly, the assembled representatives met to discuss and vote on NEA-AK's priorities for the upcoming year. With the fiscal crisis in Alaska on their minds, they voted to adopt one major state priority for the year: making sure Alaska has a sustainable budget and revenue for the future.

As NEA-AK President Ron Fuhrer recently wrote in an email to NEA members, "In January, the 60th

NEA-Alaska Delegate Assembly voted to make one issue our top legislative priority for 2016: restructuring how Alaska uses Permanent Fund earnings as the first step to solving the state's fiscal crisis. Why? Because the state's \$3.6 billion budget gap is simply too big to close through budget cuts or new taxes alone. The State of Alaska could close every public school in Alaska, and we would still have over a \$2 billion deficit."



Monday February 22: Nome EA Meeting at NBHS library at 4:30. Items for discussion include negotiations update and planning for Read Across America.



Wednesday March 2: Read Across America events at NES. We will be sponsoring a community events for students and parents to kick off Read Across America in Nome.



March: Winter snow is finally here and there will be a snowshoeing trip sometime in the month of March. Plan on going out with us some Saturday and watch your email for more details.