

SEA WAVES

RIF Season is Back

A loss of students directly equates to a loss of teachers. Simi has been in declining in enrollment for several years, and the projection of losing more students continues for the next few years.

Student enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year is projected to be down by at 500+ students. Therefore, the district will be sending RIF notices prior to the March 15th deadline to many elementary and secondary teachers. Early in March, SEA will have more detailed information on how many teachers will receive preliminary layoff notices. Final RIF notices, if needed, will be sent out May 15th.

Prior to June of last year, we were able to notify all teachers who received a lay-off notice that they would be returning to a job this year due to the 40+ teachers who decided to retire with the retirement incentive that was offered by the district. Without an incentive being offered, we don't know how many teachers will retire this June or how many RIF'd teachers will be returned. SEA will again meet with each teacher sent a RIF notice in March to verify their position on the rehire list.

Teacher Transfers

February is school of choice month for parents to decide where they want to send their children to school in August. After February, we will have a better indication of which schools will need teachers and which will lose teachers to other sites. Teacher transfers will be a complicated process this year since we have school closures, low enrollment schools, and RIF's. Final placement of transferred teachers will begin in May and will follow the same process established last year with the closure of Simi Elementary. SEA and the District will first meet with each teacher being displaced from Lincoln and Justin Elementary schools and then with the teachers being involuntarily transferred due to low enrollment schools.

Negotiations

On Friday, January 30th, SEA and the District met for their first negotiation session. This initial meeting reviewed past agreements and outlined contract articles to be discussed in future bargaining sessions. SEA will be sending out another survey to members as this process develops and before items are agreed to at the bargaining table.

Job Share

The deadline to turn in job-share applications is March 15th. If you missed the SEA job-share networking meeting and you want help finding a job share partner, it's not too late to call or email SEA with your information.