

January 26, 2016 "The District's 8-member Negotiations Committee, consisting of legal counsel Terry Hodges of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick and Kohn; myself as Board President and Board Vice-President Scott Zimmerman; Superintendent Laurie Heinz; CSBO Luann Kolstad; Assistant Superintendents Joel Martin and Lori Lopez; and Roosevelt Principal Kevin Dwyer, officially met with the PREA's Negotiations Committee on December 15, 2015 to agree upon ground rules. The respective sides would be meeting approximately every two weeks to negotiate a new Bargaining Agreement, with each side alternating proposals. The meetings, per the existing Agreement, will be held in closed session. After each meeting, it will be my task per the existing contract, to provide a general update as to the content and tenor of the negotiations discussion. The first actual negotiations meeting with the PREA was held on January 19. At this session, the PREA presented its initial recommendations regarding the contract articles pertaining to: recognition and definition of terms; Board rights; negotiations scope and procedure; and Association rights. The Board held a special meeting on January 20 to review the union proposals and determine our own proposals. At the next meeting scheduled for February 2, the Board will provide responses to those PREA recommendations, as well as proposing the Board's recommendations on these contract topics and additional articles regarding: vacancies and transfers; reductions in force; and grievance procedures. The PREA also brought some recommendations under the contract category of conditions of employment and teacher rights. As this category would be extensive, it was agreed to deal with it over several meetings. The meetings have been cordial and the recommendations have been discussed with civility. Going forward, it is the Board's unanimous decision and desire to negotiate a new Bargaining Agreement with the PREA with the following overriding goal: To negotiate a timely, clear and understandable contract that strives for a continuously improving high quality education program that inspires every child to discover, learn, achieve, and care; provides for a motivated and fairly compensated staff; and ensures the ongoing fiscal stability of District 64. Each and every decision that the Board will make during the bargaining process will be based on this goal."