



Coloma Education Association – Encouraging Excellence

January 10, 2019

Hello Everyone-

Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing winter break as we now reach the conclusion of the first semester. We're sure that for many of you some parts of the year have gone by very quickly and other parts have seemingly dragged on forever. What's important to remember however is that all of you are the backbone of Coloma Community Schools and are a vital part of what has made the many changes implemented in the district over the recent years possible. Through the thick and thin, all of you that work directly with the students are true difference makers. That is why with the beginning of a new calendar year, we thought we'd drop you a note.

As you may or may not know our entire contract will be open for re-negotiations at the conclusion of this school year. In preparation for that a new bargaining team has been formed. Six people stepped forward in response to the CEA's call for members to serve on the bargaining team. The intent of this letter is to introduce that team and to give you some preliminary information as the team begins to prepare to go to the table and begin negotiations on a new contract.

Returning to the team are Kevin VanPeteghem, Terry Sheehan, Ryan Ransom, and Sharon Ball. All four of these individuals have served multiple terms on the negotiations team and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. We are also excited to introduce two new members of the team, Cheryl Thomas and Rebecca Allen. While Cheryl has served on the team in the past and Rebecca will be for her first time, both of them bring a breath of fresh air and exciting new ideas to the group.

We wanted to get this initial letter out to all potential bargaining unit members. If you are currently a member in good standing a representative from the CEA will be contacting you in the future to be sure we have a current and up to date personal email address (non CCS) to contact you through. While that won't be the only way we communicate with you, it is a quick and efficient method we may use. If you are not currently a member in good standing, please contact one of us in person, via email, or through the CEA website and we can help you get into good standing and thereby keep you involved in the process of helping us help you get a fair contract.

Lastly, if you are not familiar with the CEA website, please check it out. It is another way for all of you to stay up to date and is a great place for us to communicate information about various topics regarding our local, the MEA, insurance information, etc. The website can be accessed at the following address:

<http://colomaeducationassociation.org/>

Certain parts of the website are only accessible to members in good standing, and once we have current and up to date personal emails for all members in good standing we will be sending out a password for you to use in order to be able to access those parts of the website.

Thank you for all your past support and your continued support,

The CEA Bargaining Team
Kevin VanPeteghem
Ryan Ransom
Cheryl Thomas
Rebecca Allen
Terry Sheehan
Sharon Ball