

Bethel teachers strike; first day of school cancelled



Friday, September 7, 2007

SPANAWAY, WASHINGTON - Bethel School District and teachers union representatives planned to resume bargaining this morning, opening up the possibility of an end to the two-day-old strike. The state mediator who's worked with the two sides the past month called a mediation session for 10 a.m. today, spokesmen for the district and the Bethel Education Association said Friday.



Based on how the talks go, district officials will decide by early Sunday afternoon whether to open for class Tuesday, said district spokesman Mark Wenzel. That takes into account that union by-laws require that members have 24 hours to review a proposal before voting on it. If the parties reach a tentative agreement

over the three-day weekend, the association will try to gather enough members to vote on it, said union President Tom Cruver. He'd like to see 800 to 900 members participate.

Union members have been on strike since Thursday, the day classes originally were scheduled to begin in the 18,000-student suburban district. Seven months of bargaining which began in February collapsed Tuesday over compensation, class size, and medical benefits.

The Bethel School District serves 18,000 students in Graham, Spanaway, Roy, Kapowsin and Frederickson communities. Bethel Education Association represents more than 1,050 teachers, counselors, librarians and other certificated staff members. Last school year's base salary for Bethel teachers: \$31,386 to \$59,157 (see attached), based on education and experience. Average Bethel teacher's salary for 182-day school calendar: \$47,349.

Get updates on the strike at the Bethel School District Web site, www.bethelsd.org and the BEA's site at www.bethelea.org. We asked readers online who they agreed with and after 200 votes: **Teachers:** 48% - **District:** 52%

1. In accordance with information obtained predominately from the passage above, in paragraph form explain precisely what has occurred within the Bethel School District.
2. Approximately how many more readers sided with the district as opposed to the teachers in the online poll?
3. Given the following tables "Henry County Board of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Teacher Salary Schedule" as well as the "Bethel Public Schools 2006-2007 Salary Schedule" create a series of coordinate graphs conveying the following data regarding both Bethel and Henry County: a) First year Teacher with a Bachelor's degree, b) 15-year veteran Teacher with a Master's degree, and c) 30-year Teacher with a PhD. You may complete a single double-line graph to convey information by simply placing the degree attained in parenthesis below the years of service.
4. What are the independent and dependent variables represented by the graphs? Explain.
5. Do the values of one variable seem to depend on the values of the other? In other words, do changes in one variable seem to be the result of the changes in the other? Explain.
6. Based solely upon an increase in experience as opposed to acquiring an additional degree, at what point in one's career does he/she make the least and most progress financially? Explain your reasoning.
7. Based solely upon acquiring an additional degree as opposed to an increase in experience, at what point in one's career does he/she make the least and most progress financially? Explain your reasoning.
8. What patterns do you find in the tables and graphs? Explain.
9. Would it make sense to connect the points in your graphs? Explain.
10. Based on the patterns you found in question six, how can you predict values that are not included in the table or graph? Explain.
11. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
12. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the words: *mediator*, *union*, and *suburban*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
13. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.