

From Coeur d'Alene Education Association Facebook site:

Monday night!

Many of you have heard already that the CEA is encouraging District Employees to attend the School Board meeting Monday (9/8) at 5:00 (arrive 4:45) at Midtown Center.

Our purpose is simple: Express to the Board that their Team's current contract proposal (as we enter mediation) is not acceptable because it reduces take home pay by raising insurance premiums and out-of-pocket medical expenses for ALL District staff. We hope that by presenting our stories, the Board and their Team will appreciate what we value as we begin Mediation.

This is a peaceful, professional action by teachers and ESPs advocating for themselves and their families. We will have SIGNS for you to hold and you will connect with education colleagues from around the District. Our Goal is to show the Board our priorities as professionals and employees.

Action Options:

1. ATTEND - BODIES COUNT! Our power is PEOPLE, and if we don't have people there, we have no power! Bring your spouse and your kids – they are affected by the negotiated agreement, especially health benefits.
2. HOLD a SIGN – We have several versions – choose one that fits your priorities and your voice.
3. SIGN UP to SPEAK - You may choose not to speak because some else "steals your thunder", but put your name on the list so the Board knows that a lot of us have something to say.
4. ADDRESS the BOARD - Tell your (2-3 minute) story of the last 5 years for your family: increasing insurance costs, lost steps, frozen lanes at the same time the District Fund Balance has more than tripled. Be passionate and clear, but don't accuse or blame – we need to get to an AGREEMENT THAT BOTH SIDES CAN RATIFY.

The CEA Team has taken a firm position that NO district employee should take a TAKE-HOME PAY CUT (other than the increased cost of the current insurance plan) at a time when the District's allocation from the state includes money for raises, steps and lanes, and discretionary funds to help pay for insurance increases.

While ACTION can be difficult because it takes people out of their comfort zone, when it is done the right way (peacefully, professionally) and for the right reason (to protect ourselves, our families, and our community), it can be incredibly empowering and positive. Please participate by attending the SB meeting 5:00 (arrive 4:45) Monday 9/8 at Midtown Center.