

SEA members,

You have voted to go on strike Sept. 5 if we don't have a tentative contract agreement with the Shoreline School Board by 6 a.m. Sept. 4.

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in last night's joint SEA/SESPA general membership meeting. Our members approved the strike motion by an overwhelming 86 percent. SESPA members voted 87 percent in support. The high percentage of support shows our dedication and commitment to our students and the future of Shoreline Public Schools. I applaud your courage and your unity with our SESPA co-workers.

The best way to settle this situation is for us to remain united in support of our collective decision. If we are on strike Sept. 5, it is the expectation that all SEA members will participate. Now that we have made our collective decision, opting out is not an option.

The SEA Bargaining Team will meet with the school board's bargaining team at 4:30 p.m. today (Thursday, Aug. 30). Bargaining sessions are scheduled for Friday and Saturday as well. Please plan to meet Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 4) either for a ratification vote or to make preparations for going on strike the following morning.

In response to our strike vote, the Shoreline School Board has scheduled an emergency meeting for Friday morning at 9 a.m. at the Shoreline Center. Perhaps they will be voting to offer SEA members a contract that minimizes cuts, increases our individual time and truly puts Shoreline students first.

Keeping informed and communicating with the community is essential. We now have our own Q & A on the [SEA Web page](#). It will be updated on a regular basis.

As many of you have requested, here are a few quick paragraphs you should post on your SWIFT page or e-mail to parents (feel free to personalize):

- I, along with a majority of Shoreline teachers, have voted to go on strike Sept. 5 if the Shoreline School Board has refused to negotiate a tentative contract agreement by 6 a.m. Sept. 4.
- Voting to strike is a serious decision, but one I believe is necessary for the future of Shoreline schools. Like you, I want school to start on Sept. 5. Yet, after years of fiscal mismanagement and poor budget decisions, the Shoreline School Board now insists on cutting more than \$500,000 in important student services and programs. That is unacceptable.
- Members of the Shoreline Education Association and the Shoreline Education Support Professionals Association have decided to take a stand for our students and our schools. We need your support. Please contact your

elected Shoreline School Board and Supt. Sue Walker and urge them to settle educators' contracts by Sept. 4 so school can start school Sept. 5.

- For more information, please visit www.shorelineea.org.

Please 'cc' me at sea.pres@verizon.net on any letters you send out to parents and community members, and if you receive replies, those would be helpful to have as well. Please also be sure to use that same email address to communicate with me this year, as I am on leave from my teaching position. Thanks!

We continue to receive much media coverage, which helps put pressure on the Shoreline School Board. [The Seattle Times](#), [KOMO TV](#), KING TV, KIRO TV, KCPQ TV, KIRO radio and KPLU radio all covered our strike vote. Please see Friday's Shoreline Enterprise for more coverage.

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/education/2003859967_shoreline30m.html
<http://www.komotv.com/news/local/9463812.html>

As our Sept. 4 deadline, approaches, the pressure will intensify. We have made our decision; now the five elected members of the Shoreline School Board will have to make theirs. Will they offer us contract settlements we can accept? Or will they decide to risk their political careers and the community's wrath by forcing us to strike?

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

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Elizabeth Beck
Co-President
Shoreline Education Association

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