

# **SEA President's Report**

**Week of October 1, 2007**

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For information regarding YOUR Association, go to:

<http://www.shorelineea.org>

<http://www.washingtonea.org/>

<http://www.nea.org>

## **News to Use**

### **School Board Meeting Tonight, 7:30 PM, Shoreline Center -**

It was truly inspiring to see so many of you on Thursday – picketing, doorbelling, and at our afternoon rally. We teach our kids that when you see or hear something that you believe is wrong, that it's important to stand up and say so, and you did just that. I have spoken with several of the other local EA presidents who joined us, and to a person, they were so impressed by your professionalism, dedication, clear commitment to your students, and by the amount of community support that was evident at the picket lines and the rally. Yet we still have more to do. As of Friday, classes were still in flux throughout the district. We do not yet have a commitment from our administrators to maintain balanced classes in the future. In her letter on Friday, Superintendent Walker acknowledged the need to improve communication, but no mention was made of an

intent to change this new staffing and class-size model. Please join us tonight to help send a message to our school board and administrators that we want what is best for our students, and that we are – and always have been – ready to work together to make our schools the best they can be.

**October 12th Non-Student Workday** – October 12th is the state inservice day this year, and according to our contract, is an individually-directed workday. In past years, the district has refrained from scheduling professional development classes during individual time on non-student days. The recommendation from SEA's Executive Board was that this practice continue this year, so that your focus could be on your classroom. It has come to our attention, however, that classes will be scheduled on the state inservice day. Our Instruction department wants to be able to offer classes to you and is feeling pressed for time due to the increase in individually-directed time this year. Please remember that you determine how to best use your individually-directed time. If you decide that you want to attend (or facilitate) a district-sponsored workshop on October 12th, that is your choice; you are under no obligation to do so. If you would prefer to stay at your school and work in your classroom, that is also your choice. Additionally, there are many classes being offered elsewhere around the state, and many educators arrange to attend those, as well – just make sure that you have discussed this option with your building administrator first. The bottom line? Individually-directed time is individually

directed.

## **Dues Dollars at Work**

**WEA Bargaining Conference:** Whether you have been at the bargaining table already or are a member with a growing interest in learning more about collective bargaining, this conference will have something for you. Jinny Sims, past president of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, is the featured speaker, and participants will self-select three breakout sessions on different bargaining topics. The conference is scheduled for October 26-27 at the Doubletree Inn at SeaTac. Click [here](#) to view the flyer. There is no registration fee for this conference. WEA will pay for the facility, meals and presenters. Participants are responsible for their own travel, hotel (if needed) and parking costs. Clock hours will be available for \$5. The registration deadline is October 12th. If you are interested in attending as part of an SEA group, please contact Krista Tenney by October 2nd.

## **Know Your Contract**

**Joint Committees** – This Collective Bargaining Agreement includes the formation and/or continuation of several joint committees, among them a Calendar Committee and a Technology Committee. We also have several standing committees that SEA members participate in. This is a partial list and will be updated in a future report. As some of these are time-sensitive, it is a

start until a complete list is available. Please email me at [sea.pres@verizon.net](mailto:sea.pres@verizon.net) if you would be interested in serving as an SEA representative on any of these committees. Your colleagues thank you!

#### NEW!

- Calendar Committee – CBA 16.2 – begins meeting by November 1st
- Long Range Technology Committee – CBA 65.3 – begins meeting by October 15th

#### CONTINUING

- Elementary Conferencing Committee - MOU on Conferencing Pilot
- Staff Development Committee – CBA 29.3
- Insurance Committee – CBA 62.7
- DIMCC – CBA 35.4

#### OTHER COMMITTEES

- Gift, Grant & Donation Policy Committee (new as of spring 07)
- Elementary Assessment Committee (new)
- 5th/6th Grade Laptop Rollout Committee (new)

**Contract Review** – In new contract years, one of the agenda items at the October Building Rep Training is a contract review session for building reps and building administrators. This year's review session is planned for October 11, and will be jointly presented by SEA and HR. It is helpful for our SEA reps and building principals to be hearing the same information at the same time, and will help members of both groups to better answer your questions as they arise this year. This year's contract will be posted electronically on both the district and SEA website this month.

# **WEA-PAC**

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**Last spring, the SEA Representative Council voted to adopt a position in support of the Simple Majority Campaign. Here's what you can do!**

**Simple Majority – APPROVE 4204** - For nearly 70 years a requirement has been in place that calls for a 60 percent passage rate on any school levy or bond. That means that of the few levies that fail across our state, while they receive a majority vote, they come just shy of a 60 percent vote. Levies are the only vote taken by the people that require above a 50 percent vote. We now have an historic opportunity to change this. During the 2007 legislative session, our lawmakers passed a resolution that allows the people to vote on this unfair law that has been in place since the '40s.

It's time that school levy and bond elections are treated like any other election that requires only a 50 percent plus one vote for passage. It will take every pro-public education supporter in this state to cast their vote on Nov. 6, and we need your help. You are the credible voice in your community. You know what the passage or failure of a levy means to your district, your school, your classroom and each individual student.

**Tell your stories, get the word out and let people know that it's a simple APPROVE vote in support of local schools. Here are some talking points:**

- ***Local levies provide our schools with fundamental needs.*** Levies pay for textbooks, smaller class sizes, teacher training and other basics that are essential to providing our children with the quality education they need to succeed in life.

· **Help students everywhere in the state.** We are lucky that in Shoreline, our levies usually pass. However, some of you may have been working (or even have been students) in Shoreline when we had a double levy failure in the early '70s and remember its impact on the district. Share those memories with your colleagues and with the community. Similar situations occur in districts across the state each year. That's not what we want for kids and educators anywhere.

· **Our schools need our help.** Most voters support local levies because they know our schools need help. They know it's hard for our children to learn when Washington ranks 47th in the nation in class size.

· **Levy failures hurt our kids.** Last year 31 school levies received a majority vote but failed because they didn't get 60 percent – disrupting school operations and forcing new levy elections, instead of letting schools concentrate on educating our kids.

· **The 60% supermajority rule is unfair to our schools and our students.** Our communities can approve things like a new park or a new jail by a simple majority vote – but not a school levy. The 60% rule sets the bar higher for our local schools, making it harder for us to get the support we need – and that's not fair.

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***Thank you for all you do!***

## **SEA Executive Board**

Elizabeth Beck (SEA) – SEA Co-President

Pat Valle (EIN) – SEA Co-President

Liz Travis (BKS) – SEA Vice-President & Bargaining Chair

Jeanine O'Connell (HT) – SEA Secretary

Matt Alford (BKS) & Joe Malek (SLC) – Nominations & Elections  
Co-Chairs

Corey Eichner (SC) – Legislative Chair

Jane O'Brien (SLC) – Member-at-Large

Melissa Walsh – Member-at-Large

Veronica Cook – SEA Building Rep-at-Large

## **SEA Office Contacts**

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