

SEA President's Report

Week of October 8, 2007

DO NOT PRINT, REPLY, OR FORWARD FROM A SCHOOL COMPUTER!

For information regarding YOUR Association, go to:

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

News to Use

October 12th & 15th Non-Student Workdays – October 12th and 15th are both individually-directed, non-student workdays this year. As mentioned in last week's Report, you choose how best to use your time on these days – working in your classroom, collaborating on-site with colleagues, participating in professional development classes, etc. You are, however, responsible for signing in on those days to verify your attendance. If you are planning to attend a workshop or conference off-site, be sure to discuss this with your administrator prior to Friday.

Laptop Reminder - This is a joint reminder from SEA and the Shoreline IT Department regarding educator laptops. The following language is new to the SEA Contract this year:

9.11 The District will insure or self-insure district equipment that employees are expected to use, including laptops. In cases of gross negligence, the employee shall be responsible for paying the deductible or costs of repair.

This is a gentle reminder to avoid risky situations that could

potentially be construed as negligent. For example:

- Avoid leaving your laptop in your car, but if that situation is unavoidable, be sure that your car is locked and the laptop is concealed.
- Avoid consuming beverages near your laptop.
- Be aware of cords, etc., especially in situations where you are moving your laptop back and forth between different areas, like your desk and a presentation station.

If you have questions or concerns about your laptop, its use or needed repairs, please contact Jim Golubich at 206-361-4410.

Dues Dollars at Work

September 27th Article and Photos – The WEA website has an article and photo page featuring our one-day job action protesting the recent overload decisions. Click [here](#) to check it out.

Know Your Contract

Joint Committees – We are still looking for volunteers for several joint and ad hoc committees. Please email me at sea.pres@verizon.net if you would be interested in serving as an SEA representative on any of the groups below. In particular, the Calendar Committee and DIMC Committee (reviews and recommends supplemental curricular materials) begin meeting very soon, and we need SEA reps. Thank you!

- Calendar Committee – CBA 16.2 – begins meeting by November 1st
- Elementary Conferencing Committee - MOU on Conferencing Pilot
- Staff Development Committee – CBA 29.3

- Insurance Committee – CBA 62.7
- DIMC Committee – CBA 35.4 – first meeting November 6th
- Gift, Grant & Donation Policy Committee (new as of spring 07)

Activity & Leadership Allocations – Good news! Some of the Activity and Leadership Pay allocations in our Contract are provided to buildings on a ‘per FTE’ basis (the elementary allocation and middle school curriculum leadership amounts). Contract language provides that the staff FTE count used in determining these allocations is the September count date. However, district administrators have decided to provide additional funds based on the staff FTE recently assigned to buildings for overload relief. Your site’s office manager may not have received these additional funds yet, but they should be arriving soon.

WEA-PAC

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Last spring, the SEA Representative Council voted to adopt a position in support of the Simple Majority Campaign. Very soon, your building representative will be contacting you about ‘get out the vote’ phone calling October 22-26 and November 1. Please volunteer! In the meantime, keep talking to people you know using the talking points below.

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

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Veronica Cook – SEA Building Rep-at-Large

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