



Update

November 6, 2020

Special LWEA Election Update

Elections for the 2021-22 LWEA Officers and Executive Board and the 2021 NEA and WEA Rep Assembly Delegates begins next week. What you need to know:

- Lake Washington EA Elections will open Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. and close Friday, December 4, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.
- LWEA members will receive an email with a link to the secret electronic ballot
- Each member will have a unique username and password – the ballot will contain instructions
- You can view the ballot as often as you like, you can only vote 1 time, once you hit submit – vote is final
- Every position has the option for “write-in” candidate(s)

Officer Candidates for 2021-22

President

Howard Mawhinney: The past few months have been immensely challenging. The COVID outbreak and subsequent OSPI/state mandates have required bargaining 17 COVID specific Letters-of-Understanding since February. Number 18 is currently in discussion, undoubtedly, with more to come. Our ability to complete that time consuming, unprecedented, high impact work, is testament to the positive organizational changes implemented at the LWEA the past three years. That distributed leadership model has allowed the LWEA to ensure members voices are heard and simultaneously be responsive to a rapidly evolving outbreak. I am thankful to all those that have contributed to that effort. As we go forward, I hope to continue to earn your confidence in my ability to lead the Association as we work together to ensure Lake Washington remains a great place to teach. Thanks for your vote and your support!

Vice-President

Katie Badger: LWEA members are always seeking to make our schools excellent for our students and their families. Especially in times of challenge, we should continue to build a union that values educator voice and participates as an integral, decision-making partner with LWSD because our members know how to meet the needs of students. I am excited at the prospect of continuing this work as LWEA Vice President and respectfully ask for your vote. Thank you for your support.

Executive Board Candidates for 2021-22

Primary Rep

Patti Cook: Hi, I have taught Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade in our district for over 30 years. Currently, I am serving as the Primary Rep for LWEA. I have expanded my understanding of LWEA, WEA, and NEA's workings throughout the past years. I hope to continue in this role as an advocate for you. In doing so, I believe I will represent our community of educators who have an incredible amount of dedication and experience. I would be honored to be your primary representative to bring your voice and your ideas to the district and support you in your work as an educator. Thank you for your consideration and support!

Middle School Rep

Kyla Thompson (Jackson): I started my LWEA participation as a building rep, and five years ago I attended the WEA Representative Assembly for the first time. I ramped up my involvement by helping to bargain our current Collective Bargaining Agreement, and first ran for executive committee when that agreement began. I've learned an incredible amount, developed a more global perspective of the power and organization of our union at all levels, and been honored to serve as the Middle School Representative. I am currently helping to negotiate, and would love your support for one more year to see us through a return to school and implementation of a new contract. After that I plan to stay involved, and I would love to support a new Middle School Representative on the Executive Committee! Please reach out to me if you are interested in learning more.

Executive Board Candidates for 2021-22 (cont)

Intermediate Rep

Mary Kay Weinmeister: I am running for re-election for the position of Intermediate Rep for LWEA. My first term began in July of this year, and I would love the opportunity to continue. Over the past 17 years, I have taught 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grades in elementary school and was also a substitute teacher for five years before returning to the classroom. I have been a building rep for my school for several years and have learned a lot through that experience. All five of my children are graduates of LWSD, which allowed me to be part of our parent community, including serving as a PTA board member. Having worn all those hats has been invaluable and will enable me to see issues from many angles. I have also had the privilege of representing LWEA at both WEA and NEA rep assemblies, which has instilled a passion for union work and a desire to do even more. I would be honored to be your intermediate representative to bring your voice and your ideas to the district and support you in your work as an educator. Thank you.

Fareeha Nasir: My name is Fareeha Nasir and I am running for Intermediate Representative. I am a 5th year teacher. As your intermediate rep, I will make sure that all voices, new and experienced, are represented. As a new educator, I see the issues within the system and work to dismantle them. In the past 5 years, I have worked within the union to understand its core values. I have been a building rep for the past year, I have attended the WEA and NEA rep assembly, I am in the LWEA Equity team, I partake in the Advocacy and Leadership Competency Team, and lastly, I am a co-founder of the Educators of Color that provides support to all BIPOC in LWEA. During my last several years of service, I gained knowledge and courage to stand up for what is right for teachers. My drive never stops. During my 3rd year of teaching, while I was becoming more involved with our union, I completed my master's degree. During my 4th year of teaching, as I joined several other opportunities to understand, hear, and advocate for teachers, I also completed my National Boards. I believe my achievements are 100% correlated to the work our union continues to do. The union fights for our rights, so we can continue to focus our energy on students. I am asking you to elect me to be your Intermediate Rep so that I can fight this fight for YOU. I will advocate for new and experienced teachers, teachers pursuing National Boards, and teachers of color. Elect me, Fareeha Nasir, to be your Intermediate Rep so I can be YOUR voice. Change may be slow, change may be forced upon us, but change is inevitable. Let me be your change. Thank you!

Karen Murk: I am honored to be nominated and running for Intermediate Representative this year with the LWEA Executive Committee. It is my strong belief that educators perform better when they feel supported and are offered regular opportunities to collaborate and refine their craft. It is even more essential to have this in place amid a pandemic and ongoing social justice crisis. When we work together seeking common interests and hold steadfast in valuing one another's point of views we all thrive.

In my prior career, I held positions such as Executive Director and Director of several non-profits. The skill sets of leadership that were gained in those experiences are not only invaluable but also extremely applicable in union leadership. As your representative, I will ensure that ALL voices are heard with an equity lens so that our association can continue to advocate soundly for the needs and interests of its members. As your Executive Committee Intermediate Representative, I will use my passion, dedication, and experience to continuously represent our members concerns and interests by listening, processing, and including all voices. Thanks for your vote!

My activism and leadership within LWSD/LWEA include:

- LWEA Competency Team Member, Equity Committee
- Prior member of our building Labor-Management Team
- Trained in Courageous Conversations & LWSD Equity Site PD
- Muir Equity Team Member
- Former LWEA Building Representative
- MTSS Committee Member at Muir
- Former Muir Advisory Committee Member
- Door-belled and phone-banked for pro-education candidates on many occasions
- Co-established school wide systems such as surveys, decision making model, student interest
- Actively seeking out opinions of stake holders within the Muir in community in efforts to have shared leadership and balanced representation
- PTSA Liaison at Muir

As your Executive Committee Intermediate Representative, I will use my passion, dedication, and experience to continuously represent our members concerns and interests by listening, processing, and including all voices. Thanks for your vote!

High School Rep

Rachelle Horner: This is my 13th year teaching humanities in the Lake Washington School District, and as a graduate of Redmond High School it has been astounding to see how far we have come, but also how far we have yet to go. As a teacher of social justice, I have expanded my understanding of all the ways change happens, both big and small. I have been working in small ways to cause positive change by teaching all of my classes through the lens of social justice, leading staff professional development on social justice pedagogy and now as the leader of the our school's equity team and now I would like to start activating change in bigger ways as LWEA's High School Rep. Attending WA RA these last three years I have enjoyed watching teachers be a voice for social progress and I look forward to continuing to add my voice to that progress by continuing my role as Secondary Rep for the LWEA.

Executive Board Candidates for 2021-22 (cont)

Specialist Rep

Heather Jones: I am the Library Media Specialist at Redmond Elementary. I am honored to have been nominated to be your Specialist Representative on the LWEA Executive Committee. My experience with union advocacy includes four years' experience as the Specialist Building Rep for TOSAs at the RC and I am presently serving my 4th year as Elementary Librarian Rep. With 20 years of experience as an elementary classroom teacher in multiple grades, elementary and middle school resource teacher, and Technology Integration Specialist at the RC, I have a well-rounded view of the needs of certificated staff and possess an intimate understanding of the internal mechanisms that power the work of the district. I've served you at three WEA-RA's, three NEA-RA's. I've also represented our membership in LWEA bargaining for the current CBA as well as the upcoming contract negotiations. In these uncertain times, my goal is to be the representative voice for the needs of our students and teachers. I possess strength in being able take abstract concepts and translate them into stories that represent actual boots on the ground. I'm a strategic thinker, seeing multiple chess moves ahead, and I thoughtfully consider the unintended consequences of plans that impact students and staff. It's my intention to advocate for students furthest from educational justice to ensure equitable access to learning, school events and community experiences. I will advocate passionately for you, the teachers who give more than they think they have every single day. There are some fantastic candidates up for this position, so no matter which way you vote, you will be well-represented. I would consider it an honor and privilege to represent you as Specialist Rep on the Executive Committee.

Amy Waldroup: I am running for the position of Specialist Representative. This is my 22nd year as an elementary school librarian in the Lake Washington School District. I am currently in my fourth year serving as the Elementary Librarian Lead. This position has given me many opportunities to work with colleagues at both the elementary and secondary levels throughout the district. This summer I had the privilege of being a part of the bargaining team, working with LWEA, district leadership, PE, music, and secondary librarians to negotiate the Specialist LOU. I believe my experiences in working with colleagues at both the elementary and secondary levels has given me the ability to represent and support all members of our dedicated specialist community. I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue to represent the voices of our specialists at LWEA. Thank you for your support.

Marilyn Hargraves: As a former high school English teacher, counselor at Redmond High School, and current counselor at Lake Washington High School, I am fortunate to have experience in the classroom as well as outside the classroom. I have served as a building representative and delegate to WEA, NCUEA, and NEA. I have also served on the full contract bargaining team and on LOU bargaining teams. Each year I serve on the Executive Committee, I am more and more grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to grow my leadership skills and to become more active on both the local and state levels. From meeting with legislators in Olympia and speaking at local town hall meetings to phone banking, doorbelling in our neighborhoods, and texting messages of involvement, information, and action, I enjoy being active in the political process that helps elect pro-public education candidates. Whenever I visit schools and/or chat with our members, I am humbled by your candid stories of successes and challenges. I look forward to continuing to listen and learn from my colleagues and to find ways to support all educators. I would be honored to continue to be your advocate and represent your interests, ideas, and concerns both within and outside LWSD. I appreciate your trust, your vote.

Special Services Rep

Cookie Grant-Suggs: "You never know how **STRONG** you are until being **STRONG** is the only choice you have!" This quote resonates with me because this year has proven to be a year of changes and adjustments that no one could have imagined: remote learning and a pandemic. These changes have made me stronger not only in the classroom, but in representing the needs of the members. As we reflect on these things it has allowed us to be flexible and continue our commitment to education. This year marked my 21st year of teaching and my 4th year in the Lake Washington School District. I have worked as an ELL teacher at Muir, Dickinson, and currently at Rush. I believe in equity and creating a powerful force that can conquer any obstacle and have phenomenal results at the end of the day. My goal in representing Special Services: Members should not have to settle for less, when more is within a hand reach!! I have dedicated myself to LWEA:

- Special Services Rep for the past 2 years
- Bargaining member for Letters of Understanding (LOU - Fall 2020)
- Executive Board Advocacy & Leadership (A/L) Committee: Professional Development & Whispers of Wisdom (Previously Wine & Wisdom)
- LWEA Building Rep
- WEA Board of Directors (Representing LWEA)
- WEA RA
- NEA RA

I am a firm believer that in order to be **HEARD**, you must be **PRESENT**. I want the voices of Special Services to be heard and I intend to make sure that I am present with a powerful voice. I am an advocate for democracy from phone-calling to doorbelling in order to educate the community about important issues that affect education. I will be honored to continue to be your advocate at the local, state, and national level. I am confident I can continue the work and be passionate about serving and getting things done. I appreciate your support and continue to protect the interests of the members: **MEMBERS MATTER!!!** Vote for me, Cookie Grant-Suggs, for Special Services Representative. Thank you for your trust, support, and vote!

Executive Board Candidates for 2021-22 (cont)

Ethnic Minority Rep

Sharon Curry: I am running for the Ethnic Minority Representative for the Executive Committee. Lake Washington School District and Redmond was very different 25 years ago, when I moved here. I recognize, more recently than I have ever understood before, that my role as a person of color plays a critical part in the health and growth of our community. I would like to be a part of that discussion regarding diversity and culture to raise awareness throughout our district about issues of being an ethnic minority. Thank you for your consideration.

Cathey Hettinger: As with any presidential election year, political participation sees a jump. Sparks get lit, fires spread, people want to participate. *"What can I do to make a change?" "How can I become more involved?"* As a member of the LWEA Executive Committee since the 2019-20 school year (as your Intermediate Representative), I have BEEN involved. As a LWEA Building Representative since the 2016-17 school year, I have BEEN involved. I am proud of my involvement with LWEA:

- Sign-waving across 405 to build voter support for our district bonds and levies
- Door-belling to increase political support for Manka Dhingra's Senate campaign
- Text-banking with Chris Reykdal's re-election campaign
- Attendance at LWSD Board Meetings in support of our LWESPs who were without contract
- Member of the Budget & Finance Committee for LWEA (since 2019)
- Member of the Educators of Color Organization with LWEA (since 2019)
- Elected building representative at Mark Twain and Clara Barton Elementary (since 2016)
- Elected representative for our WEA Representative Assemblies in Spokane (since 2016)
- Elected representative for our NEA Representative Assemblies (since 2017)
- Organizer of our "It's Time" red tees for the McCleary funding in 2016
- Guest Speaker co-organizer for *Whispers of Wisdom* with LWEA (formerly "Wine & Wisdom")

I have received endorsements from many LWEA members:

- Maryziel Galarpe, former Ethnic Minority Representative and Co-Chair of the Advocacy & Leadership Committee with LWEA
- Rachelle Horner, current High School Representative, Co-Chair of the Advocacy & Leadership Committee with LWEA, and member of the Educators of Color Organization
- Cookie Grant-Suggs, current Special Services Representative with LWEA
- Fareeha Nasir, Co-chair of the Educators of Color Committee with LWEA
- LT Turner, Hannah Sidel, and Lesa Jones, Building Reps at Clara Barton Elementary
- Hanah Rasmussen, Heather Hein, and Meghan Whitestone, Building Reps at Rockwell Elementary
- Cassie Huffman and Melissa Tubbs, Building Reps at Mark Twain Elementary
- Suzanne Zeitz, Alyssa Luiten, and Fareeha Nasir, Building Reps at Alcott Elementary

Your support, whether it's your personal vote or you informing your friends how to vote for Ethnic Minority Representative, will ensure that I can continue my unwavering involvement with our union so that our voices are heard. Thank you, in advance, for your time, your dedication to education and to our union, and for your support.

NEA and WEA Rep Assembly Delegate(s)

Delegate statements can be found here:

[NEA and WEA Rep Assembly Delegate\(s\) Statements](#)