

## **WEA Board of Directors (BOD) Report to Locals within Rainier Uniserv Council November 2020**

Since we took office in July, a LOT of action has taken place behind the scenes. We hope you will reach out to us if you wish to know more about what exactly the WEA BOD does and want more info.

With COVID issues dominating our lives, Jen and I have been doing our best to keep your views represented at all BOD meetings, through our organizing work within our locals, state and Council committee work, bargaining, and full-time jobs as educators in Renton.

[Here is a helpful WEA Organizational Chart](#) that shows the connections between all of the WEA entities. We hope you want to become more involved with your Local, the Rainier Uniserv Council, WEA and NEA to strengthen the power of our union and assure strong leadership guides us into the future. YOU are the union. WE are public education.

The BOD spent long hours debating the hiring of our new Executive Director. [Here is the message welcoming Aimee Iverson](#), WEA General Counsel, to her new position starting January 2021.

We, your WEA Board Directors, have the utmost respect for you, our brilliant and dedicated union siblings and submit this report in solidarity,

Julianna Dauble, Renton EA @ [julianna.dauble@washingtonea.org](mailto:julianna.dauble@washingtonea.org)

Jen Ben, Renton Professional Technical Association & your Rainier Uniserv Council President

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### **Highlights of WEA BOD Actions (July 2020-Present)**

#### **Racial & Social Justice**

- HISTORIC ACTION! We approved a [NEW CENTER within WEA](#) called the Racial, Social and Economic Justice Center with the charge of advancing racial and economic justice in our public education system. This entails hiring new staff and strengthening Equity Teams in Locals and Councils around the state. More info coming soon!
- Every WEA department and work team reported how they share the responsibility to focus on Racial Justice. Just ask if you'd like to read those documents!
- Your Rainier Uniserv Council's Equity Team, or RECN, has been recognized as a leader in the nation for its work and will continue to be instrumental in identifying and combating institutional racism in our society. For more info and to attend RECN's next event, [click here](#).

#### **Representative Assembly Updates**

- New Business Items (NBIs) submitted for consideration by the WEA Representative Assembly (which was cancelled for Spring 2020) underwent review by the BOD and quite a few were passed. [Here is a list of all NBIs submitted](#). The report on which of [those were adopted can be found here](#).
- The BOD voted to make WEA Rep Assembly virtual in 2021. Check with your local Association for how to run for delegate to the RA!

#### **Issues and Resolutions**

- Resolutions that were passed by the BOD include:
  - [Community Relief COVID Funds](#)
  - [Solidarity with BLM,](#)
  - [WEA Support for Locals Who Participate in Nationwide General Strike to Ensure Peaceful Transition of Presidency,](#)
  - [Indigenous Peoples to Develop Land Acknowledgments](#)
  - [Call to Action for Missing Indigenous Women](#)
  - [Columbus Day replaced with Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
- We tracked the statewide elections closely and are pleased that we maintained Chris Reykdal as Superintendent of Public Instruction and are glad that our contribution of \$150,000 to the YES on R-90 campaign kept the historic Sex-Ed bill passed by the legislature in 2020 in place. For more info on Election Results & implications, click here for [OurVoice](#) updates on state politics.
- The BOD adopted the Aspiring Educators Program (aka SWEA) operating procedures to fully include aspiring educators within WEA
- WEA joined other labor partners in calling for a closure of the NW Detention Center in Tacoma.

Please reach out to your Board Directors if you have any questions, concerns or if you want to propose an idea for us to bring forward to WEA! Members are welcome at meetings, we'd love to have you join us and learn more about your state Association.

Official WEA BOD meeting dates:

- January 22-23, 2021
- March 5-6, 2021
- April 14-15, 2021– Spokane (Pre-RA)
- June 4-5, 2021
- August 3-5, 2021 Board Retreat