

2022 WEA RA AND NEA RA

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Veronica Anisa (WEA, NEA)

As a parent, educator, and community member in the Seattle School district, I can offer a unique insight to the needs of parent educators in SPS. I have worked in licensed childcare and public education for 12 years.

Vaughan Amare' (WEA, NEA)

When you select me to represent you, you select someone who has committed themselves to bringing more people to attention and concern. Do you want more action and justice in the face of racism, sexism, and corporate greed? Let me work on your behalf to create a better world through our union.

Fualaau Areta (WEA, NEA)

Thank you for the opportunity to represent. Like all of you committed to education, mine remains the same: to empower our young people to be self-reliant and outstanding citizens so that they may set that same example to others. Everyone is born good. We just help to nourish as they come to us.

Benjamin Davis (WEA, NEA)

It's crazy and scary where we are 2022 but I believe we can get through this. I will represent you and let your voice be heard. Vote for Benjamin Davis

Antoinette Felder (WEA, NEA)

Would like to represent out SAEOP, 's making sure our voices are heard and counted Currently working and serving on WEA board and act committee. Please vote for me, to get our message heard

Vallerie Fisher (NEA)

Happy New Year's,

My name is Vallerie Fisher and I'm a candidate for the WEA & NEA RAs' as a delegate to bring voice to issues of concern around equity, social justice, a living wage for us all.

I ask for your vote!

Mahamoud Gaayte (NEA)

Mahamoud Gaayte, SEA BOD Paraprofessional

Cathy Geier (WEA)

SSD employee 23 years: 12 Certificated Teacher, 11 Senior Substitute. WEA-RA Rep 7 years. SEA-RA rep 2nd year.

Critical Issues: keep everyone safe from covid spread through adjusting school year; ensure safety and health for all participants in schools; social/emotional wellness supported.

Passion for Action

Students: social justice programs implemented in curriculum; flexible school calendar & services; quality, relevant education.

Education Colleagues: reduce workload; appreciation for work in challenging times; collaboration; flexible school year assignments; teachers' voices heard.

SEA & WEA; LISTEN; contribute; attend listening sessions; participate in meetings & collective actions.

Jennifer Hall (WEA, NEA)

Let's come together and work for a healthier, saner future for our children, our families, our communities and our union! I am not afraid to speak up and advocate for others, and to push back against racist, misogynistic, ageist and ableist educational policies that hurt our students and ourselves. I have pushed back against harassment-style management in our schools, and against the blaming and shaming that our members are too-often subjected to. I will stand, speak, write and FIGHT with and for my union siblings to bring our voices forward, and to build a better union.

Uti Hawkins (WEA, NEA)

As part of the delegation I hope to take part in a movement where we come in solidarity and make progress

Peter Henry (WEA, NEA)

As a substitute teacher and Vice President of the Seattle Substitutes Association, I want to continue working for full inclusion of substitute educators within the WEA and NEA. The WEA passed NBI-16 to implement sub meetings and PDs and we want to build on success!

Darrin Hoop (WEA, NEA)

I stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter at School movement demands: Ethnic Studies, restorative justice, hire more Black teachers, and funding for counselors not cops. SPS puts students and our lives unnecessarily at risk due to weak covid safety procedures. We should immediately transition to remote schools until the omicron surge passes. We need proper masks like N95's, weekly covid testing, contract tracing, and funding for mental health support before we return to in-person. We need a union that will stand up to districts and politicians and lead whatever struggles necessary to win all the above and more.

Leanne Hust (WEA)

I would be honored to represent educators if elected for this position. I am a PCO in my legislative district. I am also connected well with my local legislators.

Bruce Jackson (WEA, NEA)

I am a proud union member. I believe in the power of our collective voice and our ability to make sweeping social change. I have worked at the last 3 WEA and NEA conventions to bring Ethnic Studies, Racial Justice and Equity in Education to the forefront. I will continue that work if I am Re-elected.

Scott Jetton (WEA, NEA)

As a paraprofessional, I have been a strong advocate for members across the district.

Price Jimerson (WEA, NEA)

Hello! My name is Price Jimerson and I am a first year teacher! I am luckily not new to our lovely Union. I am a second generation NEA/WEA/SEA member. Throughout my time in college I served as the President and VP of SWEA our student equivalent of SEA. I am running to keep that train going to support and serve our students the best way that I can! So please vote for me Price Jimerson to represent SEA on the State and National level!

Connor Lee (WEA)

5th generation educator (2nd gen union rep), 4 year SEA rep, BLT & BST rep; I'm a community organizer building member-driven power in our union for social, racial, and economic justice. There is power in a union. Let's use it!

Jennifer Matter (NEA)

I'd be honored to continue to represent SEA as a delegate.

Joyce McDonald (WEA, NEA)

As president of the Substitutes, I would love to represent my constituents, ensuring their voice is heard and their presence is known. Please give me your vote!

Molly O'Neil (WEA, NEA)

Looking to Honestly Represent.

John Otey (WEA, NEA)

I am a building AR for Denny and I am trying to have a more active roll in our union. I want to be apart of the team to help shape our future as a union and school district.

Rachel Pendergast (WEA, NEA)

I have worked in Seattle Public Schools since 2012. This is my seventh year as a certificated teacher. I am eager to learn and become more involved in SEA through WEA and NEA.

DaZanne Porter (WEA, NEA)

Education is in a crisis and we need strong voices to step up and speak up and out! I am not someone who goes along to get along I am outspoken even if my opinion/view is not popular! I am a strong advocate for Educators and Children of Color but I also want what is best for all, not just the chosen few! Please vote for me and let me be your voice when needed! Give Educators the respect and pay we deserve as we are the molders of America's future! I am the voice of the voiceless! I am DaZanne Davis Porter!

David Posner (WEA)

I have been active in the Seattle Substitutes Association (SSA) for seven years, two as an Association Representative and five as a member of the SSA Board of Directors. I regularly attend Representative Assemblies and have been a member of the Joint Labor Management Committee with the SSA and SSD HR. I have been part of the leadership team that plans and manages the SSA's monthly general membership meeting and am actively involved as an Administrator of the SSA's Facebook page.

Shannon Ratner (WEA, NEA)

I would like to be a delegate at WEA RA and NEA RA to represent Classified and SAEOP staff.

Elizabeth Ruiz-Puyama (WEA, NEA)

This is my tenth year as a classroom teacher but my first as an AR for my building. I have truly enjoyed advocating for my members and participating in local rep assemblies. I believe attending the WEA and NEA rep assemblies would be an excellent opportunity to meet, advocate with and learn from a wider range of educators from across the state and the country.

Evin Shinn (WEA, NEA)

I want to engage with real conversations with fellow union members and have real productive conflict. We may not agree on all of the politics, but the union to be a place where real work is getting done and everyone is welcome.

Joshua Simpson (WEA, NEA)

I believe that teachers' working conditions are students learning conditions. If we want to better both, we need to build fighting unions. That means fighting to end the idea that all educators (and building staff) are martyrs that need to accept an unsustainable status quo. I have over seven years of teaching experience and have been an SEA building rep. Currently, I teach at Meany Middle School and I am the chair of SEA's waiver committee.

Soren Stewart-MacTavish (WEA, NEA)

I am an autistic, non-binary person of Omašškêkowak Cree and Inari Sámi heritage who has worked a collective 20 years in education with Special Education students. I feel I can bring a perspective that has thus far been silent within the union body.

Stan Strasner (WEA, NEA)

Enough is enough. We need to continue and expand racial justice curriculum despite the racist attacks. #TeachTruth. Let's demand safe schools that are ready and responsive to stop the spread of the pandemic. No more skimping on basic safety measures and further more make big investments in green schools. #TaxTheRich. When educators fight for better schools, we fight for students and their families. Our working conditions are student learning conditions. But we can do more. NEA should be helping lead movements with all working and oppressed people for racial, gender, and economic justice.

Teresita Tobon (WEA, NEA)

I believe that working together we can accomplish a lot. I have served as a rep. always thinking that we can make a difference. Since I am from Colombia, I am bringing a Hispanic perspective in union matters. Remember that a diverse group of RAs is the key to a successful assembly.

Alison Underdahl (WEA, NEA)

I have been an SEA rep for both elementary and middle schools and an active union member for 15 years. If elected I would work for transparent, democratic, social justice unionism and advocate for fully funded schools, protection of rights, and workplace safety.

Michelle (Meesh) Vecchio (WEA, NEA)

I aim to be part of those of us working to build a transparent, democratic, social justice union that is centering equity both in our buildings and our positions. I believe we are stronger together in the fight for fully funded schools, the protection of our rights, and maintaining workplace safety.

Mary Vester (WEA, NEA)

Hello, my name is Mary Vester, and I am an AR for Meany Middle School. I am seeking your vote to be your catalyst in bringing your voice for these challenging unprecedented times that we are navigating throughout our profession. This is our opportunity to present solutions among our colleagues to bring about changes in our profession. Thank you for your vote.

Elizabeth Ward-Robertson (NEA)

Hi SEA member, I'm running to be a delegate to attend the NEA RA. I would appreciate your vote; I have attended the NEA RA once before and found great opportunities to vote and push Washington State issues that affect us all on a national level. Being among millions of members would feel much different than in the past but I still recognize that brown member voices are just as powerful nationally when joined and collaborated with other states around the same values of education and being an Education Support Professional. Please vote Elizabeth Ward-Robertson for NEA Delegate