



# Update - Stay Connected

May 2, 2022

## Special Election Update

### Elections for Representatives to the Executive Committee

You should receive an email this morning by 9:00AM to your home account. Follow the directions to receive your ballot.

**Your VOTE Matters.**

### Meet your Candidates

#### Primary Reps:

I am **Patti Cook** and am running for re-election as your Primary Rep. I currently teach Kindergarten at Rush and have taught 1st–4th grades during my 36 years with the district. My role as Primary Rep has given me the opportunity to become a stronger advocate by allowing me to meet with primary teachers and listen with an open mind to hear the stories behind the issues. I would be honored to continue as your primary representative, to bring your voice and your ideas to the district, and support you in your work as an educator. Thanks for your vote!

For more, see [Patti Cook](#)

My name is **Kristi Bergquist** and I am a kindergarten teacher at Mann elementary.

I am running for the Executive committee member primary representative because I want to represent you and your voice. I want to be your voice when we are implementing new programs, so teachers and students can be successful. I want to be your voice in negotiations, so we all get what we are deserved. I want to be your voice! We should all be represented, respected, and appreciated for all we do.

For more, see [Kristi Bergquist](#)

## Intermediate Reps:

My name is **Fareeha Nasir**, and I am running for Intermediate Representative for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. In the past 6 years, I have worked within the union to understand its core values. My experience includes building rep, WEA and NEA rep assembly, LWEA Equity team, Advocacy and Leadership Competency Team before joining the Organization and Communication Team, and I am the co-founder of the Educators of Color. Through experiences, I gained knowledge and courage to speak up for what is right and fair. Maya Angelo once said, "courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently." I am your courage. Re-elect me and let me be your voice. Thank you!

For more, see [Fareeha Nasir](#)

My name is **Mary Kay Weinmeister**. I am a 5th grade teacher at Rockwell, have taught grades 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6, and subbed K-6 in my 23 years in education. I have learned so much during my 12 years as a building rep! I am a former Intermediate Rep, have served on the bargaining team for return to school, and been a delegate for both WEA and NEA RAs, all of which have instilled a strong desire in me to continue working to represent teachers and further the work of LWEA. Thank you for your consideration and support!

For more, see [Mary Kay Weinmeister](#)

## Middle School Reps:

Hello, my name is **Martha Daman**. I am running for middle school representative for the LWEA executive board. I teach LA/SS and Performing Arts at the Renaissance School of Art and Reasoning and am the final founding member of the school staff. After 23 years teaching in this district, I have acquired experience in traditional programs and alternative programs.

I am an effective listener and will strive to understand and represent the perspectives of all our middle school programs across the district, traditional and choice alike. This is a unique moment in history. It is imperative that we speak our truths and amplify our voices to have a positive impact on the work of our district in a productive direction for our students, staff, families, and communities.

For more, see [Martha Daman](#)

## Middle School Reps: (cont)

Greetings! I am **Hattie Midboe** (pronouns: she/her), your current LWEA Middle School Representative running for re-election. I'm completing my 7<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in LWSD at Stella Schola MS and am a proud union member with a passion around advocacy for educators. I want to ensure that our educators' voices are represented and heard when decisions are being made that impact our students and our classrooms. Roles I've served outside of MS Rep are TIF, Lead Teacher, Equity Team, Coach, Building Rep, and I will be attending NEA RA this July.

This last year, along with serving as your Middle School Rep, I served on the Membership Engagement Committee to plan and host LWEA Socials focused on engaging LWEA members. This coming year I'm looking forward to meeting more of our LWEA members to see how I can best represent your voices. Thank you for your vote!

For more, see [Hattie Midboe](#)

## High School Reps:

**Bethany Shoda:** Hi! I am running for High School Rep because I am a passionate advocate and I have the tenacity and experience to represent your interests. I have served on Curriculum Adoption, Equity Team, and Safety Committee, and taught classes from co-taught EL to AP, so I have a wide range of understanding of the concerns that we as high school teachers face. I have spoken on issues in schools from the local all the way up to the state level, fighting for equity and innovation in education. I will listen to what you need. Thank you for your consideration!

For more, see [Bethany Shoda](#)

**Sharon Curry:** Current High School Rep running for re-election.

Meet [Sharon Curry](#)

## Special Services Rep:

My name is **Karyn Taggart**, and I am honored to run as your Special Services Representative. I have worked for the district in many capacities over my tenure with LWSD. I have also been a passionate parent, volunteer, PTA member and community activist. My interest in serving on the Executive Board is to listen, learn and advocate for my colleagues as they advocate for their students at all levels of instruction. Our students are our customers, and our service delivery requires dedication, engagement, and passion. I serve to support your passion to educate and support our most vulnerable customers – those who require specially designed instruction. My heart lies with my students and with supporting and learning from my colleagues. Please vote for Karyn Taggart as Special Services Representative.

## Specialist Reps:

**Nikole Lalas:** Counselor at Redmond High School running for Specialist Rep.

Meet [Nikole Lalas](#)

**Heather Jones:** I'm honored to be nominated for Specialist Representative on the LWEA Executive Committee. My 8 years of experience in union work includes Building and Librarian Rep, delegate at WEA and NEA RAs, and bargained contract negotiations. I have 24 years of experience as a classroom teacher, resource teacher and TOSA at the RC. I listen to the needs of staff and possess an intimate understanding of the mechanisms that power the work of the district. I'll advocate passionately for you and ensure that you are recognized and appreciated for your essential work. It would be a privilege to represent you.

For more, see [Heather Jones](#)

## Ethnic Minority Reps:

My Name is **Michael Finley**. It would be my honor to act as your advocate on the LWEA Executive Committee.

As your rep, I will be a passionate voice that will ensure that the interests of BIPOC educators are served. We all deserve a healthy, positive work environment where we are treated with respect and dignity. Our unique talents and perspectives should be considered an asset to our school communities.

In 7 years with LWSD, I've been inspired by so many of your stories of triumph and perseverance. Choose me to be our voice.

Vote Michael Finley for Ethnic Minority Representative.

For more, see [Michael Finley](#)

**Rojine Rudio:** I have had the pleasure of serving as Redmond Elementary's Labor Management Representative this school year. This experience has empowered me to move forward working with our members, this time by serving the entire association.

I am humbly asking for your support in voting for me in the upcoming LWEA Executive Board Election as your next Ethnic Minority Representative. The LWEA needs someone who is prepared to advocate not only for its members, but especially for its BIPOC educators. I want to ensure their retention in the field of education by making their voices heard. Our BIPOC members are representative of our district's student population, and I am fully committed to collaborating with and serving every member with transparency and empathy. Take a stand and make an impact. Vote Rojine Rudio to be YOUR next Ethnic Minority Representative.

For more, see [Rojine Rudio](#)

## Ethnic Minority Reps: (cont)

Hi, my name is **Kelsey Brown**, and I am running for Ethnic Minority Rep for the executive committee. As your representative, I will ensure that all member voices are heard, especially our members of color. With the presence of diverse voices within our association, we will be able to work with the district to develop policies to help bring equity to all.

For more, see [Kelsey Brown](#)

**L. Cookie Grant-Suggs:** I am honored to have been nominated for Ethnic Minority Rep. I will communicate the ideas of our members and make sure they do not go on deaf ears; We will be heard and united!!

Equity for our members is a key factor, and I will advocate ensuring members are respected & represented in our union and district. I will consistently be the leader and powerful force in front & behind our members.

Settling is not an option, when more is within a hand's reach! I am dedicated to LWEA and our members!!!

Thank you for your **CONFIDENCE & VOTE!**

[L. Cookie Grant-Suggs](#)

**Your elected Executive Committee Representatives will bring  
your voice to LWEA.**

