

WEA-RA Candidate Statements

Stephen Miller

As your past BEA President and WEA VP, I understand the importance of representing BEA members. Leadership must be more than speeches. When BEA members asked for help addressing workload issues in September, when WEA members statewide asked for a COVID safety petition in December, and when BEA needed a vaccine first resolution to vote on in January, I stepped up to serve. In my classroom, I encourage students to recognize humans advocating collectively to make life more equitable. I will make a passionate, active commitment to pay, benefits, and working conditions of union members at WEA RA.

Michelle Mordaunt

I am excited to have the possibility to represent BEA at the WEA assembly. As the ESA BEA executive board rep, I am able to consult with my ESA colleagues about issues impacting ESA BEA members, and vote on resolutions that will improve our ability to be effective educators. I look forward to advocating at the WEA rep assembly and sharing my experience with BEA members.

Don Burress

The previous year has been described as "unprecedented" and yet we have not received unprecedented levels of funding, resources, creative solutions, or care from our state government. At RA this year, I hope to join with other union voices to push for equity, justice, respect, and safety for our students, their families, and educators and school staff locally and across the state. Furthermore, I have successfully passed 2 NBI's in previous RA's and will lend support to any Bellevue efforts this year to ensure we get full value from our delegation. Thank you for your vote.

Anna Silarski

My name is Anna Silarski, and I would like to be one of our delegates at the WEA Representative Assembly. I have been honored to serve as a BEA representative for International School this year and have really found a passion for advocating for my members. I would like the opportunity to represent all of you and to be able to experience our union system at the state level.

Santasha Dhoot

As a Punjabi Sikh educator, I am actively working towards dismantling White Supremacy within our education system and rebuilding the system so that all our students and educators thrive, especially our BIPOC students and staff. I am committed to advocating for improved recruitment and retention of educators of color as well as advocating for Ethnic Studies curriculum K – 12. Through BEA I am part of the Racial Equity Leadership Cadre where I have learned how much our union can do to build a just educational system and would love to continue that work through the WEA and NEA.

Eve Chan

Thank you for supporting me in attending WEA-RA. I've had the honor to represent elementary and secondary MLL and Title Facilitators, alongside their building rep. I'm an MLL Facilitator at Ardmore and Sherwood Forest. I want to acknowledge your efforts in collaboration, anti-racist teaching practices, outreach to families, and implementation of culturally-responsive teaching. We put in 110% into closing the opportunity gap. The district's statement that we have not been serving students "furthest away from educational justice" doesn't address the expectations created, managed, and sustained by white dominant and systemically racist structures. It's time to speak up and speak out.

Jill Rock

As your WEA-RA representative, I will be a voice for Bellevue School District and speak on behalf of our members' interests. I am responsible for disrupting and dismantling inequitable systems and practices. Through our work at WEA-RA, we can create new procedures to provide better outcomes for our students and members.

Terry Jess

I'm a 9th year History and Ethnic Studies at BHS and have been happy to serve previously at RA, as a building rep, and budget committee member. I also serve on the WEA work group to create the WEA Center for Racial, Social, and Economic Justice and work with the NEA Center for Social Justice to provide antiracism workshops for white educators. I will strongly advocate for our members, with an unapologetic antiracist and social justice lens. There is still a lot of work to do to transform our association into one that truly serves all members and students equitably.

Kelye Kneeland

I am a veteran teacher at the elementary level in the BSD and have taught for 28 years at three schools. It has never been more important in our profession that we work as a union to raise the standards of our working conditions to meet the needs of ourselves and our students. This school year has taken much out of us and demanded that we work harder than ever as individuals and as a union. I aspire to advocate for our district's teachers (if I am elected), by gathering information and sharing my virtual voice at the WEA assembly.

Corinne Larsen

I accept this nomination and would be honored to represent BEA members at RA. This is an exciting opportunity and a way I could be an advocate at the state level.