

Trump nominates stunningly unqualified Secretary of Education

In a move that will have a profound impact on public education, Donald Trump announced that he is appointing Betsy DeVos as his Secretary of Education. DeVos, a Michigan billionaire heir to the Amway fortune, has never attended a public school, did not send her own children to public schools, and has no background or experience in education.

More troubling is that DeVos has spent almost 30 years attempting to dismantle, destabilize, and defund public education. DeVos has used her extraordinary wealth to undermine public schools and, in doing so, has harmed students. She and her family have spent millions to promote failed private school vouchers and unaccountable for-profit charter schools while working to destroy funding for public education.

Although DeVos argues that children's ZIP codes should not confine them to failing schools, she has focused very little energy on improving public education. Her advocacy---and her money---is directed almost exclusively towards moving students and funding out of public schools. According to the Detroit Metro Times, the DeVos family has invested at least \$200 million since 1970 in conservative causes through various think tanks, political action committees, and advocacy groups. Her long-time goal has been to completely dissolve the Detroit Public School district.

DeVos has been one of the biggest financial and political backers of charter schools in her home state of Michigan. Due in large part to DeVos spending on lobbying and political contributions, Michigan now sends \$1 billion of public school funding to charter schools each year. 80% of those schools are run by for-profit companies and organizations.

We know that as a candidate, Donald Trump proposed steering \$20 billion in existing federal money toward vouchers that parents could use to help pay for private or religious schools. A top target of his is Title I money that goes to public schools serving the nation's most disadvantaged students. With Betsy DeVos as his education secretary, his campaign platform stands a much better chance of going from crazy idea to devastating reality.

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association, is asking all NEA members to sign an open letter demanding that the Secretary of Education and every elected official uphold the vision for high-quality public schools for every student. Act now to make your voice heard!

Here is your link to [sign the letter](#).

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*Kevin Teeley,
President*

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Prize puzzle – do you know the answer?

Which of the following statements are correct?

- A. The second half of the Professional Fund money will be added to December paychecks.
- B. Classwork for students who are going on vacation during school time should be prepared whenever it's requested.
- C. If an additional day off is needed for vacation, it's possible to use sick leave to be out on Tuesday, 1/3/17.
- D. A transfer request for next year will be accepted if it's submitted by February 21 (after mid-winter break).
- E. During winter break, staff will need to monitor all parent e-mails and respond in a timely manner.

If you know the answer – contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office – you might win a \$10 Starbucks card!



Working less than 1.0 FTE?

Have you thought about working less than full-time but didn't know how that would affect you? Making plans for the next school year? LWEA has an informational brochure that answers those questions and much more.

The brochure includes information on salary, benefits, dues, and calendar issues. You can also find that same brochure on the [LWEA website](#) and the LWSO Portal.

Deadlines to keep in mind

- Feb 15 Requests for **transfers and reassignments** for 2017-18 due in Human Resources.
- Feb 16 Requests for **job shares** for 2017-18 due in Human Resources.
- Feb 16 Requests for **leaves of absence** for 2017-18 due in Human Resources.

The district will send out electronic forms in January to use for your transfer or reassignment request. Do NOT send any requests now.

LWEA strongly recommends you put in for a transfer if you think there's ANY chance you might want to change schools and/or assignments next year.

Remember, you can always remove your name from the list if you change your mind, but you can't add your name after the deadline.

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LWEA Office:

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Looking for you!

LWEA is sponsoring Newbie Nights - a support group for teachers with 6 or fewer years of teaching experience. We'll provide you with an opportunity to hear from experts on various topics as they share strategies for surviving your first years in the classroom.

Our next session will be on Thursday, January 12, from 4:30 – 7 PM. Through the sharing of practical tips and tricks our panel of experienced educators will answer questions and help you find ways to how to handle real life situations for:

- Handling challenging conversations
- Moving beyond parents' own barriers
- Encouraging support for student learning at home

We will also look at ways that community connections can help enhance and foster our students' success.

To register – contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office. Both the class and dinner are free, and clock hours will be available.

Questions? Check the LWEA website under [Professional Development](#).

Future Newbie Night sessions:

- February 9, 2017 (4:30—7 PM)
Culture of a Positive Classroom
- March 9, 2017 (4:30-7:00 PM)
To be determined by participants
- Apr. 27, 2017 (4:30 – 7:00 PM)
Pathways to Certification

What can bargaining do...

Then: When teachers used all of their sick leave due to their own or a family member's serious illness or injury, there was no process to allow other people to give additional sick leave.

Now: Educators who have used all of their sick leave due to serious illness or injury can request shared leave. Other district employees (both certificated and classified) can donate sick leave to allow the person to remain at home to recover.

Upcoming bargaining input meeting

Teachers who have 5 or fewer years of teaching experience are invited to attend a special bargaining input meeting on Wednesday, December 14. The session will take place in the LWEA meeting room #214 at 4:15 PM.

Directions are [here](#). We encourage you to attend!

OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for the 2nd Annual Mustang Holiday Bazaar. Sat 12/10, 10 AM—4 PM, in RHS cafeteria. 70 vendors selling a variety of goodies from jewelry, soaps, lotions, candles, RHS spirit wear, clothing, home & garden decor, baked goods, fused glass art, paper & wood crafts, & so much more! Raffle prizes. Fresh kettle corn, food. (Debbie Rist, RHS).

SERVICES

Kitchens or bathrooms cabinets need a facelift with the holidays just around the corner? Wood or cabinets looking dull, faded or damaged? Let us restore them to like-new condition. FREE estimates, excellent references. 22 yrs experience. Most kitchens under \$895. Call John at Cabinet & Wood Restoration NW at (425) 466-3553 (Suzi Desimone Retired).

Questions about your retirement, social security benefits, or state retirement plan? Utilize a knowledgeable & experienced financial professional to help you better understand your pensions, 403(b)s, 401(k)s, & IRA's. Contact Sean Tennis, Senior Associate with Foresters Financial, 206-204-3066, ext 403, or sean.tennis@foresters.com. (Brigitte Tennis, Stella Schola).

Budding novelist needing editing? I'm a graduate of UW Certificate in Editing program w/ experience editing contemporary romance, historical fiction, & young adult fiction. Reasonable rates, quick turnaround time. Lynne Pearson (Finn Hill) lynne@allthatediting.com.

WANTED

Pacific NW Basketball Officials Assn is looking for males/females, 16-99 yrs old to **become basketball officials**. We train. Variety of levels, pay ranges from \$23 - \$67 per game. Games are 7 days per week from south Everett to Federal Way—you pick your own days & hours. Rodney Thornley (Rose Hill MS) 206-409-5289 (cell).

FOR SALE

1913 White Rotary Treadle Sewing Machine. Unique sewing cabinet w/ wooden castor wheels, front door opens to reveal cast iron treadle, machine lowers into cabinet for storage. Includes all operational parts & extra needle. Pictures available. \$300 OBO. Maureen mbmedina@2001.gmail.com. (Colleen McAlerney, Rush).

iPhone 6S, white, 64G, good condition (light wear on case, no scratches on screen), 1 yr old. In original box. Carrier is Verizon. \$375 OBO. Lisa Lovin (McAuliffe) 425-417-6806.

VACATIONS

Maui Westin Ka'Anapali Ocean resort. Fully equipped kitchen, lanais w/ ocean views, tile flooring, best snorkeling just steps from your condo. Perfect for a family or romantic getaway. \$3,800/week for the 2-bedroom unit, available 4/15/17 – 4/22/17. Contact Sue Bowles at 818-613-9200 or Sbowles@acarestrategies.com. (Mary Cronin, Carson).

Marketplace

Ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. All ads need to be in written form. Send directly to Sheila Hagerman at shhagerman@lwsd.org.

Ads are subject to approval of the LWEA Executive Committee and may be edited for length.

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LWEA Website

Lakewashingtonea.org

[Facebook](#)

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Calendar

Dec. 7
Bargaining Input (4:15 PM)
Self-Contained Teachers

Dec. 8
Wine & Wisdom (5 PM)

Dec. 10
ELA State Standards
(Part 3) 9:30 AM—2 PM

Dec. 14
Bargaining Input (4:15 PM)
New Teachers (5 yrs exp)

Dec. 19—30
Winter Break

Jan . 2
Winter Break