

Supreme Court hears McCleary update

Last week the Washington State Supreme Court heard arguments as to whether the state has complied with its mandate to fully fund public education. Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), which is a coalition of school districts, civil rights groups, community organizations and education associations, argued the Legislature has failed to appropriate ample funding for education as required by the State Constitution. (Both LWSD and LWEA are members of NEWS.)

The State, on the other hand, declared they have achieved full implementation, full funding, and full compliance with the State Constitution.

Justices were focused on the failure of the state to fully fund teacher salaries. The original court decision required full state funding of teacher salaries by September 1, 2018. Legislators voted instead to phase in salary increases over 2018-19 and 2019-20. In Lake Washington, as much as one-third of teacher salaries are funded through local levy dollars.

The State's attorney, Alan Copsey, told the Court that the State could not be expected to provide such huge funding increases "all of a sudden." One justice shot back with a reminder that the McCleary case was decided by the Supreme Court in 2012.

NEWS attorney Tom Ahearne told the Court that K-12 funding falls far below the constitutional requirement under McCleary. The Legislature funded status quo for teacher salaries by only granting a cost-of-living increase this year. Also, the Legislature failed to come up with a construction budget to pay for reduced class sizes required by the McCleary decision.

NEWS asked the Court to impose more severe sanctions that would compel the Legislature to invest more money in K-12 public education. While the Court gave no indication of how it might rule, most observers believe a ruling will occur before the end of December.

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*Kevin Teeley,
President*

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Pool amounts set

Each year after the close of the open enrollment period for health benefits, the Business Office calculates the amount of the insurance pool. This year the Legislature has allocated \$820 per FTE employee to be used for benefits. State law requires that after everyone has made their basic benefits selections, any leftover money must go into an insurance pool. This pool is used to help full-time employees who have to pay part of the medical premiums out-of-pocket due to insuring their dependents. (The pool is not available to part-time employees.)

The amount available from the pool has been calculated. Teachers will be able to spend up to \$798 per month (\$823 if you are on Willamette Dental instead of Delta Dental) for their medical insurance after all of their other benefits have been paid. Selection of medical coverage in excess of this amount will result in a deduction from the employee's paycheck. These changes will be effective with the October payroll.

Keep in mind that under state law, school districts must set a minimum monthly medical benefit contribution that employees must make. We've negotiated that minimum to be \$10 per month.

LWEA is looking for additional staff

We've grown by so many members that we find ourselves short-handed in the LWEA office. After much planning and budgeting, we've decided to hire additional office personnel.

LWEA is looking for a full-time Administrative Assistant (8 hours per day) to work alongside our current LWEA staff. This individual would be responsible for the support of the LWEA professional development offerings, Executive Committee and Rep Assembly meetings, and the use of our meeting room. In addition, maintenance of our social media sites and website would be a regular activity. This individual will work closely with the office manager to provide support for all members and Association activities.

Contact [Sheila Hagerman](#) in the LWEA office for a job description and application.

Please help!

Dina Adermann, LWSD bus driver, is in need of additional shared leave to allow her to care for her terminally ill husband in his final days. If you have sick leave you can donate, please fill out Shared Leave form and send it to HR. This will make such a difference to Dina and her family.



Need help with voting?

Do you need more information regarding a candidate or ballot item in the upcoming election?

You can go to [Your Voters Guide](#) to get information on candidates and initiatives (from your personal device during non-work hours).

Remember—ballots must be postmarked by November 7 in order to count in this election.

LWEA Office

10604 NE 38th Place, Suite 212

Kirkland, WA

425-822-3388

UniServ Rep: [Jennifer Silves](#)

Office Manager: [Sheila Hagerman](#)

Admin Assistant: [Ila Rhea Morrow](#)

LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

President:

[Kevin Teeley](#)

LWEA Office / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

[Howard Mawhinney](#)

RHS / 425-936-1800

Primary Rep:

[Heidi Wilson](#)

Parks / 425-425-936-2650

Intermediate Rep:

[Gerry Wilson](#)

Muir / 425-936-2640

Middle School Rep:

[Peggy Solum](#)

Kamiakin / 425-936-2400

High School Rep:

[Katie Badger](#)

RHS / 425-936-1800

Specialists Rep:

[Marilyn Hargraves](#)

LWHS / 425-936-1700

Special Services Rep:

[Sarah Cooper](#)

Juanita Elementary Preschool /
425-936-2570

Ethnic Minority Rep:

[Maryziel Galarpe](#)

Blackwell / 425-936-2520

LWEA Office:

425-822-3388

Consider these groups as United Way choices

LW Schools Foundation: The Foundation raises funds to support academic excellence and success for all students in LWSD. All children have the potential to succeed if they are given support, resources and inspiration, and the Foundation is dedicated to working with schools to make each one a great place to learn.

The Foundation provides extra resources to support quality teaching and equal access to educational opportunities, and to help develop students' future-ready skills. Some of the ways these are accomplished are by awarding classroom grants, supporting the LINKS mentoring program, and assisting low-income students with academic expenses.

Include LWSF in your **United Way** charitable automatic payroll deduction. It's easy and convenient!

Assistance League of the Eastside: This all-volunteer non-profit organization puts caring and commitment into action through community-based philanthropic programs in order to make a positive difference in the lives of children and adults touched by hardship or violence.

Operation School Bell® is a program that touches many school children in this community by providing new school clothes to elementary and middle school students who are identified by their counselors. Of the students who directly benefit from receiving new clothing, over half of these students are in the Lake Washington School District.

On a United Way contribution form, you may designate this organization by writing in "Assistance League of the Eastside," 16541 Redmond Way PMB 291C, Redmond, WA 98052.

WEA Children's Fund: You can designate the WEA Children's Fund when contributing to the United Way Campaign. Donations are tax deductible and giving is easy. Use this [link](#) to find out more.

Daylight Savings Time ends
this Sunday, November 5!

Don't forget to fall back!



Here's a great benefit for LWEA members!

If you're a member of LWEA, did you know that all our professional development classes and workshops are free for you as a benefit of membership? While we require a pre-paid registration fee to hold a place in our classes, if you show up and attend the entire class, we refund your fee at the end of the class. This is a great benefit, especially for classes like WEA Jump Start. For example, if you complete Jump Start, we'll refund your \$250 registration fee after the class is over. It pays to be a member of LWEA!

OPPORTUNITIES

Holiday Bazaar: Sat. 11/4 from 9 AM – 3 PM, at EHS. 2 full floors of crafters, artisans, & vendors. Fused glass jewelry, soaps, toys, & all sort of handmade items & ideas to start your holiday shopping. Support the students of EHS! (Concha Lapuente, Redmond Elem).

SERVICES

Company coming for the holidays? **Kitchen or bathroom cabinets** looking dull, faded, or even damaged? Don't be embarrassed or fret! Let us restore them to like-new condition. Free estimates, excellent references. Over 25+ years in the business. Most kitchens under \$895. Call John @ Cabinet & Wood Restoration NW at 425-466-3553. (Suzi Desimone, Retired).

FOR SALE

2007 **Toyota Prius**, keyless entry & backup camera. Well maintained, mileage 35+mpg in city, 47 highway. 104.5 K miles, 1 owner. \$8,500 OBO. Call Bob at 206-979-7681. (Julie Bebee, Kirk).

Grass fed beef, available in whole, half, or quarters. \$4/pound hanging weight. Call Josh at 425-445-0404. (Jill Johnson, LWHS).

Remember that your ballot must be postmarked by November 7!

WEA wants your opinion on professional development

As PreK-12 certificated or ESP educators, you have professional development needs arising from the challenges of your profession. Please share your priorities by taking approximately 10 minutes to respond to the [WEA survey](#).

Inspired by our 2015-16 survey results, WEA updated Association trainings to meet member-identified needs, streamlined the WEA website's [Professional Development section](#) and launched the online Professional Development Network. Your [survey](#) responses will continue to shape WEA's future professional development offerings.

In the 2015-16 survey, LWEA had one of the largest number of people who participated. Let's do the same thing this time and give WEA an idea of what you are looking for in professional development.

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

Nov. 2

Newbie Nights (4:30-7 PM)

Nov. 5

Daylight Savings Time ends

Nov. 7

Election Day
Executive Committee

Nov. 8

Wine and Wisdom 4 PM

Nov. 10

Veterans Day Observed

Nov. 14

Rep Assembly