

IN THE KNOW



Auburn Education Association

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December 16, 2016

Pres Says....

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 [sign here](#)

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Dianne Jordan

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MLK—RALLY in Olympia

This MLK Jr. Day—Monday, January 16, 2017—is not just a holiday. It's a day to join together to fight for the CIVIL RIGHTS of all kids, quality public schools, and for the future of our work and schools. AEA members, families and their friends are joining thousands of educators, parents, and kids for a HISTORIC WEA RALLY on the Washington State Capitol Campus in Olympia. January marks the beginning of what many are calling the "education funding legislative session". We are bringing our voices together to remind them what this is all about; the students.

Why go? This is the last Legislative Session which can create the budget to meet the Supreme Court's 2018 deadline to fully fund education, in order to avoid further "contempt" penalties. The Legislators will be presented with the "Student Bill of Rights" to tell them that the State must comply now with the Supreme Court's McCleary Decision and amply fund the basic education that the State Constitution guarantees all students.

Be there for our students and each other!

From WEA; here is what the tentative agenda looks like:

9:30 to 10:15 – People begin to arrive, check in, get signs, fill out postcard messages to their legislators, pick up materials for legislative visits, etc.

10:15 to 10:30 - Everyone makes their way to the Capitol Steps with signs, banners, etc.

10:30 to 11:10 – Education is a Civil Right Rally – speakers to include a student, parent, community member, educator, and school board member. Speakers aren't all identified yet – but we are working on it.

11:10 to 11:20 – March around the Capitol to the legislative office buildings.

11:20 to 12:30 – Teams of members and parents will deliver the Student Bill of Rights to all legislators – to each of the 49 legislative districts. After the visits, teams will return signs, report on visits and check out.

For those folks that are joining us on the bus we will start loading buses at 8:30 at the Auburn PAC Parking lot.

AHS/PAC parking lot
702 4th St NE, Auburn, WA 98002

We will be loading up in Olympia to head home at 1:00pm. An additional email will be going out to those that signed up to join us! For those that are choosing to drive down and answered the survey, I will also send out information on a more concrete schedule closer to the 16th.

Lisa

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WEA Children's' Fund Needs Our Help

I recently received a call from WEA Vice President Stephen Miller who told me that all monies in the WEA Children's Fund for this year have been exhausted, and there will be no more grants given until the 2017-2018 school year. I learned from Stephen that Auburn is one of six districts who receive 50% of the money available from the Children's Fund. Auburn educators are proactive for their student's needs. Will you please help me to replenish the Children's Fund for next school year?

Did you know that you can enroll in a monthly electronic funds transfer to benefit the Children's fund? It's an easy process and only takes a few minutes. Go to the www.washingtonea.org and on the left side of the page click on WEA Children's Fund. Follow the process to make a one-time contribution or a monthly donation. I will suggest adding money to our AEA Budget next year to support the Children's Fund. It's such a worthwhile gesture.

Thanks for your help!

Dianne

Fall Membership Grants

The Fall Membership Grants have been awarded and pictures have started coming in. It's nice to see AEA dollars in action!

Congratulations to all members that received fall grants. We will have another round of grants in the spring.



Lori Sheehan, Lakeview
Body Sock

Wendy Titus, AJ
Magnadoodles .



AEA Officers and

Executive Committee:

President:

Dianne Jordan

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Vice President:

Paul Cooper / Olympic MS

Treasurer:

Steve Goliff / LeaHill

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Member Awareness Chairperson:

Chris Wilson / Rainier MS

High School Rep:

Mike Van Eaton / ARHS

Middle School Rep:

Aaron Cowan / Mt. Baker MS

Intermediate Rep:

Leah McIntyre / Terminal Park

Primary Rep:

Sandra Robinson / Dick Scobee

Special Education Rep:

Shelley Warner / AHS

Career & Tech. Ed. Rep:

Jim Wickens / ARHS

ESA Rep:

Verne Qualls / Annex

January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years	2	3	4 Back to school	5	6	7
8	9 Exec/School	10 *** Voting	11 NEA-RA	***	13 ***	14
15	16 MLK Day	17 LMT	18	19	20	21
22	23 Rep/School	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January

- 1st New Year's Day
- 2nd-3rd Winter Break
- 4th First Day back to school
- 5th Bios for WEA-RA/NEA-RA to be sent to all AEA members
- 9th Executive Board Meeting/ School Board Meeting
- 9th-13th Voting for WEA-RA/NEA-RA
- 16th Martin Luther King Day
- 17th LMT Meeting
- 18th Results for WEA-RA/NEA-RA to be announced
- 23rd Rep Council Meeting/School Board Meeting
- 30th Optional Day (Secondary teachers)