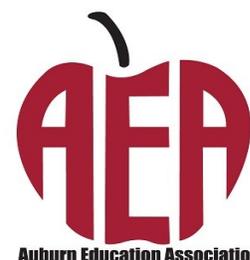


IN THE KNOW



Auburn Education Association

June 16, 2017

Pres Says....

As I write my final piece for the newsletter this year, I'm wishing for each of you an enjoyable and restful summer. Do something you LOVE! If you're a retiring member, enjoy every minute of your new adventure. To those of us returning, come back refreshed and ready to hit the ground running.

As many of you know, AEA has spent quite a bit of time this year trying to work on your concerns regarding developmentally appropriate curriculum (particularly at the elementary level), and the over-abundance of testing at all levels. To that end, in the fall, we surveyed the AEA membership. The question posed was: What differences would I notice since I was last in an elementary classroom 10 years ago and a middle school classroom 5 years ago. We received 13 pages of responses. One and a half pages were positive, and the rest of the responses were neutral or negative.

Because of your feedback, a letter was sent to each of the Auburn School District Cabinet members and School Board was crafted and sent along with your responses. The reply we received in March was an invitation to a meeting with the cabinet. An AEA representative from primary, intermediate, middle school, and high school presented to the cabinet the impact of decisions made by the Department of Student Learning on teachers and students.

The cabinet listened and had only one question when we were finished. We had hoped for a discussion rather than a presentation, but that wasn't to be. Two months later, we received a written response from the cabinet signed by Dr. Spicciati. I am sharing that below. I have told both Dr. Spicciati and Debbie Leighton of our disappointment in the response. We don't feel it addressed our concerns. It was simply a rundown on the workings of the DSL.

I have requested that a survey similar to the one conducted by ASD on the effectiveness of the Behavior Intervention Specialists be done regarding Instructional Specialists. I haven't heard whether or not the district intends to conduct such a survey, but if ASD doesn't carry out a survey, AEA will. We want to make sure the Instructional Specialist positions are beneficial to those holding the position as well as those collaborating with them, and of course, our students.

On the following pages is the districts response:

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Pres says: | 1- 5 |
| Summer Fun: | 6 -7 |
| Retirement: | 8 |
| Alisa Louie: | 8 |
| Building Rep: | 9 |
| Calendar: | 10 |

May 23, 2017

Dianne and AEA Reps,

Thank you for your time and for working so deliberately to make your concerns clear to district leadership. We want to provide a response regarding several categories/topics from our discussion.

Teacher Input and Participation

Teachers are our best partner for selecting resources and impacting instruction in each classroom. The work that has been done over the last three to five years to learn new standards, develop shared resources for instruction and assessment, and pilot advancements in practice would not be possible without teacher participation. DSL partners with building principals and content-area teachers to develop teams for curriculum work, item writing, etc. The teams of teachers provide representation from all buildings and are part of the planning and creation of the materials/assessments being developed. These teams of teachers consult on next steps in the development of the work and are developing systems and implementing practice directly from their co-practitioners. The various teacher teams are comprised of: instructional specialists, reading/language arts specialists, content-team leads, grade-level leads, department heads, AP/honors teachers, special education, ELL, and other support staff, etc. They are critical to this work. There are ongoing opportunities for teachers to participate in the work of improving instruction for each student. The teachers are on the front lines to pilot, revise, and design the next steps.

Curriculum Review/Pilot/Adopt

The district has re-engaged in the review/pilot/adopt cycle based on the schedule provided to AEA last spring. The schedule is board approved as related to the process for review/pilot/adoption and the sequence of content areas by year.

2016-17

Review CORE/Supplemental Material -

- 6-12 science (12 middle school and nine high school teachers participating)
- K-12 physical fitness-early adopt (three elementary, four middle school, and three high school teachers participating)
- 8-12 world language; Spanish under review- Japanese, German and French early adopt (all world language teachers participating)

Pilot-

- 6-12 social studies (12 middle school teachers and 10 high school teachers participating)

2017-18

Review CORE/Supplemental Material - pending funding

- K-8 ELA
- K-12 music Pilot-
- 6-12 science (one rep from each school from each grade level invited)
- 8-12 Spanish (all Spanish teachers participating)

In the board approved adoption calendar there are three phases to the process.

Current Adopted Adoption Schedule (multi-year)

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwVkkOzbytnNlc2amRHYUhiSHM>

Review CORE/supplemental material - in the year of the review the following actions are taken

- The review committee is formed (teachers, administrators, and central office)
- The timeline for the process is established
- The standards or industry requirements are reviewed
- The pilot material evaluation rubric is created
- Materials are reviewed and selected for upcoming pilot

Pilot/Adopt - in the pilot/adopt year the recommended materials are piloted, evaluated, and recommended to the school board for adoption

- The selected pilot materials are each tested for an agreed amount of time
- The materials are evaluated by teachers, students and parents

The recommendation is presented to the school board for purchase and district-wide adoption

- **Monitor and Adjust - During the monitor/adjust years, the material implementation is supported until the next adoption**
- **Professional development provided to participating teachers (teacher, district and/or vendor lead)**
- **Release time to collaborate around instructional units, scope and sequence and common assessment/grading expectations**
- **Additional material purchases if there are gaps in the adopted material**

Elementary Science

Two years ago (2015), through RTT and GATES grant funding, we were able to purchase TCI for elementary science. The grant funds were specifically targeted to enhance and strengthen comprehension of informational text. There was a three-year plan to ensure that science instruction would be developed after the initial purchase of these materials. Year one (2015-16) was focused on teaching teachers and students how informational text is different from literary text comprehension. Year two (2016-17) was devoted to a team of science teachers at elementary developing common pacing, assessment and project-based learning opportunities to meet the new NGSS performance expectations. Year three (2017-18) will be focused on supporting teachers in the implementation of three dimensional science instruction and learning. As a start to the third-year plan, we will offer repeated Waiver Day trainings with Kirk Robbins to begin the process of growing our science knowledge and practice. The offerings will be ongoing and multi-year support is planned.

Acceleration

We appreciated hearing your concerns on the topic of acceleration. Certainly a shared desire is that our middle school courses for high school credit reflect the same content and rigor as their high school counterparts. While we may not be there in every respect, we feel we have made significant progress in this area and areas of misalignment are the exception rather than the rule. Please don't hesitate to raise specific examples as we are very receptive to ensuring alignment of student experience regardless of where the course is taught.

The school board and cabinet believes that acceleration is a basic education right. Each student has the right to gain a year or more of learning each year they are in school. This is a guarantee for our above benchmark students as well. When academic measures provide evidence that a student is prepared for the next level of learning, opportunity is provided whenever possible.

At the middle level, Measure of Student Progress RIT is used along with Smarter Balanced Assessment results to make placements into accelerated math and science courses. The accelerated courses fall in two categories: out of grade level placement and courses that are eligible for high school credit. Courses that qualify for high school credit are required to have the same NCAA-approved course content as taught at the high school. Scope and sequence, instructional material aligned to the standards and assessment criteria are expected to be the same as the course offered at the comprehensive high school if credit is to be granted and posted to the high school transcript.

Middle school honors ELA is not an out-of-grade-level placement but is designed to provide rigor (i.e., advanced novels, higher DOK in application of content and materials, and compacted pacing) based on the grade-level standards. The course often has project-based content.

MS Math Placement Recommendation Guidance (example) <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BwzsogmckzgXZUtmLTZOdDJTX0U>

At the high school level, accelerated classes are self-select for both honors and AP courses. All students who have characteristics as identified by Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) are encouraged by teachers to stretch themselves by taking an honors and/or advanced placement course.

Assessment Pilot

In an effort to reduce impacts to instructional time and provide buildings with more flexibility, elementary buildings will have the opportunity to participate in the iReady math pilot to replace MAP and IXL as well as select what assessments they would like to report on for ELA and math (either MAP, iReady, or ICAs). Additionally, if a building selects to do the ELA ICA, it will eliminate the district writing performance task. High schools can opt out of testing all grade 9 students for MAP as students are now participating in PSAT. Middle schools will be allowed to participate in ICAs instead of MAP assessments.

Hiring Practices

All DSL staff has been hired using equitable hiring practices as conducted, reviewed, and monitored by the human resources department. As appropriate positions are posted for in or out-of-district applicants, application screening is conducted, interviews are held, and qualified candidates who are the best choice for the position are hired. Department of student learning is charged with increasing student achievement for each student in our system. Positions are filled based on balancing the expertise within our team to accomplish this goal. Specific attention is given to the following areas as we build our team: grade-level experience, content-area expertise, leadership ability, ongoing learning for themselves, involvement at the state and/or federal level, state and/or federal level leadership/experience, and being the most qualified for the current need as describing in the job description. We do value expertise that can support others in helping more students achieve at high levels based on their own practices. That being the objective for hiring, we want to ensure we grow our leadership and how we support teachers in buildings. We're open to feedback on how we can best guarantee a positive working relationship between DSL staff and certified staff members.

Sincerely,

Alan Spicciati, Ed.D.

Superintendent

rj

Copy to: Vicki Bates, Cindi Blansfield, Ryan Foster, Heidi Harris, Rhonda Larson, Debbie Leighton

This just in, June 16, 2017!!!!

Hi Everyone,

I meet with Cindi Blansfield this morning, Cabinet approved moving the district to Premera Direct Medical Plans and keeping the current Kaiser Permanente HMO plan! They opted to stay with Delta Dental and Willamette for dental for 2017/18 SY. They also approved keeping Lincoln Financial, MetLife Vision and NBN vision.

I want to thank everyone for attending all of the meetings this year and working so hard for our employees.

Thanks!

Kelley

Kelley A. Nybo, CSBS





Summer Reading

Get your summer off on the right foot. Join the King County Summer reading program. It's not just for kids, adults can join in as well. Does your school have a summer reading contest? Do you want to show your students that you don't just recommend reading, you also enjoy a good book. Do you look forward to reading the books you want, do you like reading for pleasure?....summer reading is for you!

Museums

Is a day at the museums more to your liking? Did you know that your King County Library card can get you into these three museums? Here are the details.:

Museum passes are available for [The Washington State History Museum](#) in Tacoma, the [Bellevue Arts Museum](#), and [KidsQuest Children's Museum](#) in Bellevue. They all make great family outings. Follow the links to check out their websites and make plans to visit (for free! with your library card!).

And here's a tip: When you're looking at available dates for free passes, be sure to note which days the museums are free to the public. For example, it may look like there are no free passes available for BAM on Friday, June 3, but [BAM is actually free to all the first Friday of every month](#). It's also helpful to check the museum's website to see when they have special events and programs being offered (and if there's an extra charge for those).

Additional Museums that might be of interest

[Seattle Pinball Museum](#) Leave the quarters at home – the Pinball Museum has over 50 vintage and modern arcade games, and all are free to play after a single entrance fee. Sodas, snacks, and local craft beers available for purchase. Ages 7 and over. It's located in Seattle's International District, so there's lots of great food nearby, and is accessible by Metro bus and link Light rail. Hours: Thursday-Saturday 12pm-10pm; Sunday, Monday, Wednesday 12pm-5pm. Closed Tuesdays.

[Museum of History and Industry \(MOHAI\)](#) Recently relocated and completely refurbished, this is one of Seattle's best museums and a fantastic destination for both kids and adults. The exhibits are hands-on, detail rich, and very well done. The museum charts the history of the region through the development of major companies and industries. It's located next to Lake Union and easily accessible by the South Lake Union Trolley. There's a decent restaurant within the museum, and children 14 and under are free. Open 10am to 5pm daily, open until 8pm on Thursdays.

AEA Office

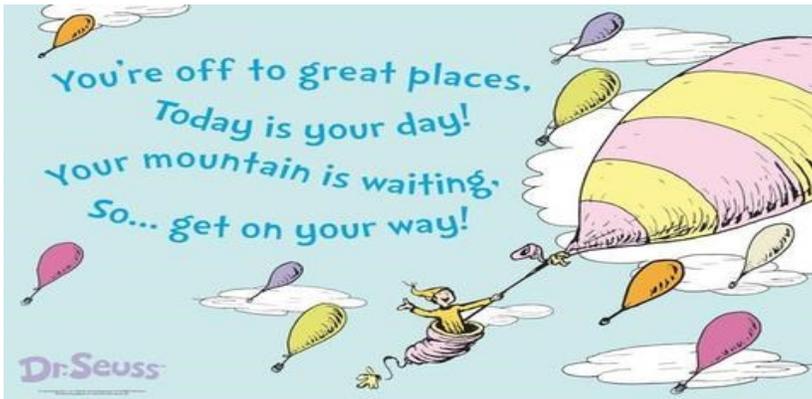
1802 A Street SE, Suite B

Auburn, WA 98002

UniServ Director: [Debbie Bickert](#)

Field Assistant: [Kim Thomas](#)

Field Assistant: [Albina Terpay](#)



Summer fun!

Don't forget that as AEA members you get a discount on single day Wild Waves Passes!

Need that information? Send an email to: office@auburnea.org for details.

Want to see some movies over summer? The AEA has tickets for Regal Cinemas. The office will be open through June 30th if you'd like to stop by and get tickets. The tickets are \$8.50 each. Please have the exact amount in cash (I don't have change) or bring a check.

Looking to spend some time outside? Listed below are [8 day hikes](#) from around the area.

(don't forget to hydrate and bring the sunscreen)!

- ◆ Mailbox Peak
- ◆ Wallace Falls
- ◆ Rattlesnake Ledge
- ◆ Franklin Falls
- ◆ Lake Serene & Bridal Veil Falls
- ◆ Mount Pilchuck Lookout
- ◆ Summit Lake

2017-2018

AEA Officers/Executive Committee:

President:

Dianne Jordan

AEA Office / 253-804-6010 or
pres@auburnea.org

Vice President:

Paul Cooper / Olympic MS

Treasurer:

Steve Goliff / LeaHill

Recorder:

Anne Clark / Mt. Baker MS

Member Awareness Chairperson:

Chris Wilson / Rainier MS

High School Rep:

Scott / ARHS

Middle School Rep:

Aaron Cowan / Mt. Baker MS

Intermediate Rep:

Leah McIntyre / Terminal Park

Primary Rep:

Sandra Robinson / Dick Scobee

Special Education Rep:

Elaine Hogg / AHS

Career & Tech. Ed. Rep:

Jim Wickens / ARHS

ESA Rep:

Deb Landis / AMHS

Sooner or later....

Retirement in your future?

It's not too soon to start thinking about retirement!

Next year the AEA will once again host two WEA Pre-Retirement Seminars.

Both seminars will be held at ARHS in the Library.

For those of you that like to plan ahead here are the dates for next year's Seminars:

*October 13th and 14th
April 27th and 28th*

I took this seminar in the spring with my husband, a teacher here in Auburn. I highly recommend you think about attending. It is very helpful.

Congratulations!!!!

The following schools earned an ice cream treat for their school in our post card writing contest!

West Auburn High School, Arthur Jacobsen, Hazelwood, Lake View, Pioneer and Terminal Park.

The GRAND PRIZE pizza lunch went to Ilalko !!
Thank you to all that turned in post cards.

At the June 12th School Board Meeting the board urged people to keep the pressure on our legislators. If you would like more post cards, I have a few at the AEA office. Please keep them coming, I will be happy to stamp them and put them in the mail. They have not passed a budget as of this newsletter.

Recently one of our Auburn teachers was featured in Partnership for Learning.

Congratulations **Alisa Louie**.

Below is the article:

At Evergreen Heights Elementary in Auburn, all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders completed their Smarter Balanced assessment for the year. How did staff create an environment where students felt excited and supported throughout the testing process? Washington Regional Teacher of the Year Alisa Louie blogged about some of her building's keys to success in a recent CORElaborate blog post:

"Success on the SBA, or any assessment, is a result of quality instruction of the Common Core State Standards. But I argue it's more than that. In my building, students have been successful with the Smarter Balanced Assessment because the staff is creating an exciting and supportive testing environment."



Get involved! Rep Council 2017-2018

It's that time of year again - time to select next year's Reps . We encourage you to think about becoming a Rep. Do you have returning Reps that are interested in serving next year or new people that want to get involved? Hold elections in your school to see who will represent you at the monthly Rep Council meetings.

Please let us know who will be representing your school for the 2017-2018 school year!!!

Listed below are the number of reps allowed for each school. For every 10 certificated staff you are allowed 1 representative. If you have 36 staff members we round up to 40, which entitles your building to 4 reps.

| School | Reps allowed |
|-------------------|--------------|
| AHS | 10 |
| AMHS | 8 |
| ARHS | 9 |
| WAHS | 2 |
| Cascade | 5 |
| Mt. Baker | 6 |
| Olympic | 6 |
| Rainier | 5 |
| Alpac | 4 |
| AJ | 4 |
| Chinook | 4 |
| Dick Scobee | 4 |
| Evergreen Heights | 3 |
| Gildo Rey | 5 |
| Hazelwood | 4 |
| Ilalko | 4 |
| Lake View | 3 |
| Lakeland | 5 |
| Lea Hill | 4 |
| Pioneer | 4 |
| Terminal Park | 3 |
| Washington | 5 |



September



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | DD 1/2 day workshop | | |
| 3 | 4 Labor Day | 5 Ind. Determined day | 6 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!! | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Exec Board School Board | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Rep Council | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 School Board | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

***** The AEA office will be closed July 3rd—August 11th *****

August

August 14th

**** tentative meeting ** General Membership meeting @ PAC, 3:00 pm**

August 30th

District designated 1/2 day workshop

September

4th

Labor Day

5th

Individually determined day

6th

Back to class for the 2017-2018 school year FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

11th

Exec Board/School Board Meeting

18th

Rep Council

25th

School Board meeting