



Highline Education Association

MEET YOUR BARGAINING TEAM



Thara Cooper

As a Music Specialist in Highline since 2001, I am grateful and honored to be a part of such essential negotiations which protect our rights as Highline Education Association members. I was recently elected as Specialist Representative on our Executive Board, and I have served as a delegate at Washington Representative Assembly. I have been a Building Rep for McMicken Heights Elementary School for several years, and was also able to represent members at Chinook Middle School (while teaching Performing Ensembles there) this year as well. My two daughters attend Parkside Elementary, and my son is at Mount Rainier High School. I am thrilled to be joining my colleagues (and daughters!) at Parkside Elementary School starting in 2015-16, and hope to continue to faithfully support all members in everything I say and do.



Richard Dunn

I am honored to represent you at the bargaining table. I teach Kindergarten at Beverly Park Elementary and have worked 20 years in the Highline School District. I have served on the bargaining team for 6 years and am actively involved in WEA's work with early childhood assessment legislation and policy. I am looking forward to a contract that honors and respects the expertise, professionalism, and dedication of Highline teachers. We must collectively make our voice be heard both locally and in Olympia as we call for time, compensation, and working conditions that positively impact student learning.



Greg Harrington

Greetings Highline colleagues. I have proudly worked in Highline for the past 18 years as a Social Studies teacher at Mt. Rainier High School. I have also proudly served as a bargaining team member on and off since the 1998-1999 school years. I believe strongly in the power of collective action, interest based problem solving, and in doing my small part to try to make great teaching easier. As teachers we face some unprecedented challenges and I am thankful that as professionals we have the opportunity to negotiate how these changes are implemented via the collective bargaining process. I hope to serve you all to the best of my ability and am proud to represent Highline teachers in this capacity.



Christina Smith

My name is Christina Smith, my strength is forming strong relationships with students and families, and I need members to know I am here to represent them. I am finishing my 6th year teaching the Intensive Academic Center at Beverly Park. I have served as a building rep and attended the WEA Representative Assembly for three years. My involvement with HEA started with a simple conversation with a veteran teacher. She helped me see that the union is not a service to rely upon, but a collective we must work within to support each other and our students. My goal in bargaining is to better our working and student learning conditions.



Martin Shorb

I have been a middle school science teacher in Highline since 1988. During that time, I have been honored to serve the Association as a building representative and as a member of the Executive Board and now the HEA Bargaining Team.



Shauna Pierson

I serve as a school counselor at the Academy of Citizenship and Empowerment (ACE) on the Tyee Campus. I have been employed in the Highline School District for the past 12 years & in 2008 earned my National Boards. I joined the HEA Bargaining Team in 2011 when asked to represent the ESA's on the team. From this point on I've taken an interest in making sure all HEA members are represented at the contract table to support all of the great teaching and learning that occurs in each of your classrooms. I enjoy hearing from you and what your concerns are so as a team we can resolve issues in a positive manner. It is an honor to represent you at the Bargaining Table and to support all the great teaching that happen in the Highline School District.



Sue McCabe

HEA involvement has been vital to me since I started as a teacher in the Highline School District. I have worked for 20 years at the middle and high schools levels. HEA educators have a strong passion and dedication to our Highline community that is invaluable. We must continue to collectively uphold our rights set forth in our joint HEA/HSD Collective Bargaining Agreement, which includes time, compensation and working conditions. As your current president, I will advocate to strengthen and enhance contract language that also honors our professionalism and expertise. Your energy and involvement will impact our results. Connect with your BST-Bargaining Support Team and HEA building representative. Please look for bargaining updates and ways that you can be involved.



Elizabeth Beck

Congratulations on wrapping up another school year, HEA Members! I have been a WEA UniServ Director since 2010, working with HEA and two other local associations in Rainier UniServ Council. Prior to that, I was the local president of Shoreline EA for three years, and was an elementary teacher for eleven years in the Shoreline and Renton school districts. It has been inspiring to see HEA members become increasingly more active in the past several years – from school board attendance to bargaining survey participation to an active HEA Bargaining Support Team, it's clear that there is desire and commitment to make improvements to Highline educators' working conditions...which are also Highline students' learning conditions! Stay tuned for more updates and ways to be involved and support your HEA Bargaining Team in their work this summer.