

OEA Speaks

OLYMPIA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

1619 STATE AVENUE NE, OLYMPIA, WA 98506

PHONE: 360-352-5255 ~ FAX: 360-352-7361 ~ WEBSITE: WWW.OLYEA.ORG

President's Corner – February 2021



Today some Pre K and Kindergarten students are entering our buildings for the first time. Hard to believe the events that have happened since last March. If all goes well, Pre K

and Kindergarten will be in the buildings for two weeks before another group is added. The district hopes to slowly add other grades up to and through middle school. The health department has different guidelines for high school students.

My hope is that everyone is allowed to proceed at their own comfort level. Return to buildings that are following strict safety protocols and safely work with students or continue to teach remotely to students who choose to remain remote.

Safety Teams

Each school has a COVID safety team. Your building principal or assistant principal leads the safety team. You should know who is on your safety team. If you don't please email your principal. Here is a [checklist](#) for safety protocols under COVID.

Who to contact: ALWAYS START WITH YOUR Building Principal. If they don't have the an-

swers here are some other contacts.

Safety Violation:	cc your building rep and Jodi Boe (jodi.boe@washingtonea.org)
Health Questions:	The nurse at your building supervised by Cait Fairhead (cfairhead@osd.wednet.edu) and Ken Turcotte (kturcotte@osd.wednet.edu)
Classroom Set Up and Cleaning:	Custodial Staff supervised by Frank Wilson (fwilson@osd.wednet.edu) and Wendy Couture (wcouture@osd.wednet.edu)
Academic Questions:	Elementary - Autumn Lara (alara@osd.wednet.edu) Secondary - Mick Hart (mhart@osd.wednet.edu)

Requesting Remote Work During COVID (this is a repeat of an email I sent)

There are two "High Risk" categories as defined by the CDC that allow members to request remote work.

1. High-Risk Employees as defined by [CDC guidelines](#)
2. High-Risk Individual in the Employee's Household as defined by CDC guidelines (same link as above)

If you fall into either category above, please

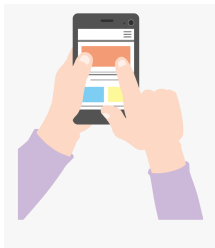
read the [MOU](#) pages 2 and 3. The HR department will help you with required documentation. If your high risk is being over 65 you don't need documentation. If the Individual in your household is over 65 you need a copy of their driver license or birth certificate, but no doctor's notes.

If you do not fall into the above two categories and you are one of the many OEA members who do not feel safe moving to in-person learning until receiving a vaccination **you may still request remote work.** However, they are going to give the remote work to members in the High-Risk group first. **Tell HR you want to request remote work but you are not in a high risk category.**

Everyone also has the option of using sick and personal leave. OSD requests a doctor's note if you will be using more than three sick leave days.

Don't Forget

- [OSPI](#) let everyone whose certificate was due in 2020 push recertification off a year. So there will be more to process in 2021.
- For this year only, you need to time slip Experience Days if you are at year 22 or beyond. To use the electronic timesheet, go to Intranet/Forms/Electronic Time Reporting System



oYears 22-25 - 6 hours
oYear 26 - 12 hours
oYear 27 - 18 hours
oYear 28 - 24 hours
oYear 29 - 30 hours
oYear 30 - 36 hours
oYear 31 and beyond - 30 hours

- Check the [Seniority List](#) for accuracy. Let HR know if your status is incorrect.

Jodi Boe, President
Olympia Education Association
Jodi.boe@washingtonea.org

Delegates for WEA and NEA Representative Assembly

Thank you for voting for your delegates for the WEA and NEA Representative Assembly. Below are your delegates:

WEA Representative Assembly

Halli Aaron
Jodi Boe
Rachel Diane Brock
Kate Cross
Deb Haddon
Denise Morrison
Katie Savinski
Ana Talavera



NEA Representative Assembly

Halli Aaron
Chris House
Ana Talavera

VEBA Advice

Written by Chris Cunningham, Marshall MS

In order to most benefit from retirement, people should not cash in sick leave hours until they get near 1440 saved hours. 1440 is the maximum that can be cashed out at retirement. But turning them in as late as possible means getting the highest hourly rate for the hours since our per diem rates go up each year. Here is a draft of a basic summary of sick leave buy back options:

- Putting them in VEBA helps you avoid paying income tax and they can be spent on current or future medical expenses like medical insurance post retirement or something.
- Cashing them out for money incurs income taxes but is still not a bad idea for those who need it for finances.
- Some also cash out and invest, figuring that they might make more by investing than it will cost to pay the tax.
- but... your VEBA account is also an investment account. Most people do not realize that in their VEBA account they can opt to have their funds invested in a variety of stock or bond options just like



our TRS retirement funds.
 •Saving hours to donate to colleagues who find themselves in desperate need is also a nice thing.

Executive Board Meetings:
 February 3 March 3
 April 14 May 5
 June 2



Exec Board and Rep Council
Executive Board Liaisons: The chart below shows the Executive Board members and the schools they are assigned. The school directly below their name is where they work. The other one or two schools are who they work with at Rep Council. Please feel free to reach out to them or your building rep with questions.

Denise Morrison	Carrie Street	Jason Finney	Rachel Diane Brock	Randy Weeks	Katie Savinski	Deb Haddon
LP Brown	CHS	Garfield	District Office	OHS	WMS	Roosevelt
Hansen	Avanti	Jefferson	Pioneer	ORLA	Madison	Reeves
Marshall		McLane	Centennial	Lincoln	McKenny	Boston Harbor

Rep Council Meetings:
 February 17 March 17
 April 21 May 19

Boston Harbor	Tosha Vay	Beth Wilson			
Centennial	Cami Anderson				
Garfield	Jason Finney				
Hansen	Molly Minders	Melissa Cleveringa			
Lincoln	Maribeth Wheeler	Emily Calhoun Petrie			
LP Brown	Denise Morrison				
Madison	Halli Aaron				
McKenny	Nancy Hooper				
McLane	Joan Moore				
Pioneer	Laura Barber				
Roosevelt	Spencer Olmsted	Deb Haddon			
Jefferson	Marti Buck				
Marshall	Ross Phimister				
Reeves	Katie Quimby	Jana Dean			
Washington	John Baranski	Candyce Burroughs	Tim Brewer	Katie Savinski	
Avanti	John Hanby				
Capital	Jenny Morgan	Caitlin Donnelly	Carrie Street	Chris House	
Olympia	Brent Kabot	Kate Cross	Kelly Boyer	Randy Weeks	Val Davis
ORLA	Karina Champion	Linda Nelson			
District Office	Sharyn Merrigan	Melissa Charette	Rachel Diane Brock		