



Evergreen Education Association

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To the families of the Evergreen community,

The teachers in Evergreen want to express our thankfulness to the growing community support we've received. Parents, students, and community members have been listening and asking what they can do to help. Our 1,800 educators want to update you on what is currently happening.

Since the State Legislature passed additional funding for salary, last spring, to satisfy the Washington Supreme Court's ruling that the State was not amply funding your student's public education, we have been ready to bargain a new salary schedule. State law now requires every local school district to bargain a new, local salary model with the additional funds. The school district refused to meet with us until the last week of school in June, where they only offered a 1.9% cost-of-living adjustment, the lowest offer in Clark County. It was not until after the August 14th school board meeting, when hundreds of members of the community came out to support their teachers, did the district provide a counter-proposal.

The current proposal offered by the school district is misleading to the public. They are proposing additional workdays for money constitutionally mandated to go to teacher salaries. The proposal plans to cut middle-school teachers and use that money to fund their proposal. Furthermore, their salary model makes teachers wait 20 years to receive a full salary based on their level of college education and proficient annual evaluations. Our community is currently experiencing an affordable housing crisis, soaring healthcare costs, and paying off student loans that is affecting our teachers too.

The current Evergreen Education Association proposal pays teachers what they are worth in 12 years. It uses the dollars sent from the State for its intended purpose and does not negatively impact our students. It allows the Evergreen School District to attract and keep the highest quality educators in our schools. Already, school districts across the state have agreed to catch up Washington state teachers, who spent six years straight without a cost-of-living adjustment. Bellevue settled for average increases of 17.3%, Bridgeport 21.1%, and Edmonds 20%. We want the education profession to be an opportunity for every Evergreen family to see as a good, middle-class job for our own children.

Unfortunately, the Evergreen School Board and their employee, Superintendent John Steach, is using deceptive tactics that sets a poor example for our students. They refused to respond to community members when hundreds gathered at the August 14th school board meeting. On August 23rd, Evergreen teachers voted 96% in favor of a strike, at the same time the Evergreen School Board voted to cut 1,800 of our families' health insurance. This affects not only our teachers, but their spouses, children, and babies. Our membership is 75% women, and many our children are Evergreen students too. Please contact your local Evergreen School Board members Todd Yuzuriha, Victoria Bradford, Julie Bocanegra, Ginny Gronwoldt, and Rob Perkins at <http://www.evergreenps.org/School-Board> to direct Superintendent John Steach to bargain in good faith and not cause harm to our Evergreen students and teachers.

If a tentative agreement is not reached resulting in a work stoppage on the first day of school, please reach out to our teachers standing outside of our schools on the picket line and ask them what you can do to help.

Thank you,

Bill Beville –EEA President

[Please see this link for Community Letter #1, dated August 21, 2018](#)