

2020 SEA OFFICER CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

SEA President

Grandbois, Derek

My name is Derek Grandbois and I'm running for SEA President. I started with Seattle Public Schools as a football and basketball coach in 2005 and became a teacher in 2008. During this time, I have been on my school's Building Leadership Team, supported staff as an SEA building representative, and I've been the co-chair of our Racial Equity Team. Additionally, I have served as one of the SEA K-8 board members and was a member of the 2019 bargaining team. Right now, we are union strong, but post-Janus we must be ready to defend our union rights and to model and lead our communities to a better and more just society. We stand as educational and community leaders. Daily, we deliver high quality public education that develops kids as thoughtful, reflective, and informed. We do this by fighting for our shared values of racial, social, and environmental justice. We are already doing this and more as individuals. As Union President, I will empower our members to realize our collective strength, listen intently and lead graciously. I humbly ask for your vote.

Greenberg, Jon

I'm running for SEA president to center racial justice, fight for fully-funded and safe schools, and hold the district accountable to its own rhetoric and policies. With 20 years of SPS and SEA experience, I know that a stronger, empowered union community is the clearest pathway to achieve these goals. Building relationships with communities within our city and across the state, I have played key roles in organizing for Ethnic Studies in Seattle and Black Lives Matter at School actions, not to mention supporting educators unfairly targeted by district leadership. My SEA experience includes serving as building rep for six years and delegate to both the WEA and NEA Representative Assemblies. During my years in the district, I have experienced a union that has failed to provide the support its members deserve. I have also been part of efforts to transform this same union into the one that, in a rank-and-file wave of red, struck in 2015, fighting for what's best for our students – including guaranteed recess. In addition to teaching, I serve as coordinator for the NAACP Youth Council, a coalition of antiracist youth, to ensure those most impacted by our educational system have a voice. As SEA president, I will continue to increase the voices of those the system most disregards. Any successes we earned in 2015 and since then have been the result of collective action. As president, my goals will be to continue to grow this community and take action to improve public education.

Hawkins, Uti

I see highlighting the brilliance of our membership and focusing on how we connect our work as essential work to show up in support of one another and be in service to families and students. As SEA President I look to be helpful in advocating to center you all as innovators and reformers of the education system to build our bigger visions for an equitable education system. Here to help and listen. Use your Voice and Vote, thank you.

Matter, Jennifer

My values: Transparency, Integrity, Service, Collaboration There are too many inequities within Seattle Public Schools. But, as a union, we have the power and responsibility to correct these inequities, reshape our schools, and create a first-rate, anti-racist, equitable district. Our paraprofessionals, office professionals, substitutes, and certificated members are all educators who make a difference in the lives of our students. We all deserve respect and to be well paid so we all can afford to live in the community we serve. I believe in the incredible talents and passion of our members and I know that we must be a member-driven and member-led union if we are truly going to create the schools our students, families, and educators deserve. If elected, I vow to work hard with you to move us closer to this vision. I have a proven track record of effectively advocating for students & our members which I would bring to the President's position.

- 18 years as a middle school teacher in Oakland and Seattle combined, 16 years as a building rep
- Parent of two SPS students, 10th and 5th grades
- 2019, 2015, 2013 contract bargaining teams
- Currently serving on SEA Bylaws Committee and PAR Panel
- Currently LA teacher at Madison MS, PBIS Lead & TLC
- SEA Treasurer 2014-17, WEA Delegate 2019 & 2020
- 2006-10, 2011-12 Equity Teams at Washington & Madison MS

SEA Vice President

Jimerson, Gwendolyn

I/We have only just begun and I would like the opportunity to continue to serve as your SEA Vice President. I would like to continue to grow and strengthen our association for ALL members. To advocate and organize around issues that are important to ALL of us. To create and enhance SEA systems to better serve ALL members. I would like to explore and develop partnerships that build our associations capacity. To be a leader that is equity forward acknowledging the need for a racially, socially and economically just public school district. The starting line is not the same for everyone so we must not leave any member behind but strive to do right by our students and our members together as we learn from our past mistakes and learn how to embrace a new path. I possess the ability to make tough decisions that is in the interest of ALL members and not just a few. I am and 16 year experienced educator who is a product of SPS and I am committed and willing to do the work. I ask for you vote and to retain me as your SEA Vice President.

SEA Treasurer

Fisher, Vallerie

Hello, my name is Vallerie Fisher, and I am running as your candidate for reelection as the SEA Secretary/Treasurer. I have shown-up, spoke-up, and stood-up to the challenges, and again ask for your vote!

SEA Center For Racial Equity Director

Prinzing, Marquita

My name is Marquita Prinzing and I have served as the elected director of our SEA Center for Racial Equity for a little more than 3 years. I made the bittersweet decision to leave what I thought would be my “forever” school after 7 years of teaching 4th grade to lead a group of amazing educators to develop the mission and vision of the CRE. By listening to educators, especially educators fighting for racial equity in their classroom, schools, and in the system, we created a program called “Racial Equity Coaches”, a team of educators who mentor and advise the Racial Equity Teams and educator leaders as well as create the Racial Equity Professional Development content and facilitate it throughout our district. Although I am the only racial equity educator on full-time leave, I couldn’t have made such impactful changes for the first time in an education union that started from a piece of paper with an idea to serving hundreds of educators and thousands of students across our district. This is just the beginning, and with the collective energy and power of educators who are fighting for our students, we can keep the movement going.

Pugh, Veronica

Using my background in community organizing, program planning, training, and facilitation, I want to strengthen our Equity Literacy and further disrupt the institutional racism that hinders education in Seattle Schools.

SEA Board - Elementary School Representative

Brandon, Kaitlin Kamalei

The union is the best avenue for the change and dedication to racial and social justice that our schools need! As a Grades 2/3 ELA and Ethnic Studies Teacher at Leschi, I love my kiddos and coworkers and want to fight for a more equitable school system that benefits every student, family, and educator. Early on, I realized this can be obtained through work within our union. I serve as a Coach and Temporary Program Manager for the Center for Racial Equity. Also, I serve on the WEA Human and Civil Rights Committee and was recently elected on the WEA Board of Directors to represent SEA. Through these union experiences, I have gained the leadership, systematic organization, and communication skills necessary to advocate for the best schools for our communities. Please vote for me, Kaitlin Kamalei Brandon, to represent us on the SEA Board and continue this important work!

Gaayte, Mahamoud

No statement submitted.

Hubbard, Amanda

I am an educator of color, passionately invested in ensuring healthy and safe school environments for our students and educators and I am running to be one of the SEA Elementary Board Reps. If you don't know me yet, I believe in Racial Equity, fully-funded public schools, and the empowerment of our union community. In this role I would continue our fight for Ethnic Studies, Anti-Racist teaching, and recruiting and retaining educators of color. Specifically, I'll do my best to advocate and ensure progressive funding and budgeting at the district level, holding district leadership accountable to its own policies and rhetoric, and most importantly building community partnerships.

Robinson, Patrice

Thank you for nominating me to run for Elementary School Representative. I have enjoyed participating on the SAEOP Board of Directors as Member At Large. I have been a SAEOP (Seattle Association of Educational Office Professionals) for 12 years, and have worked in Elementary, Middle and K-8 schools. Although, I have not worked in High School buildings, I have been listening to those who do. I am also a member of my school's Racial Equity Team. As Racial Equity Team Lead, I helped develop and implement strong Racial Equity standards within my school. I participated the Train-the-Trainer process so I can be one of the trainers for our Paraeducators to get the Certification required. I would be honored to provide a voice and support for SAEOPs across our district. Thank you for your vote! Together we are strong!

Woods, Danielle

I've served as a CRE coach, and the past two years as your elementary rep and look forward to continuing our work forward!

SEA Board - High School Representative

Dunn, Jennifer

My name is Jennifer Dunn and I am running for High School Representative for SEA. I am Latinx, I facilitate Racial Equity Literacy trainings with the Center for Racial Equity, I am a member of the Ethnic Studies Advisory Group and I teach Ethnic Studies at South Lake High School. I have over 15 years of experience in the district and contributed to the most recent bargaining session conversations this past summer with the CRE to support both students and educators of color. I am running so I can help make racial equity for educators a priority for the

union. Students of color need educators of color-in the classroom, in the hallways and in leadership positions. Thank you for your vote.

Golash, Ian

I have been committed for the past two years to faithfully serving on the Executive Board and offering my unapologetic support for racial and social equity in our union and in our district. I am committed to challenging our union to be stronger supporters of antiracist educators and to challenging our members to continue to be better antiracists. I would be honored to continue to serve on behalf of High Schools in Seattle.

Hall, Jennifer

I feel very strongly that The SEA needs to become the most responsive union possible for its dues paying members, our students, and our families. The bargaining we do will positively impact ALL Seattle Schools employees — that's a given. Many of our members have been put into untenable positions at work. They have been unsupported and treated with harassment-style management, even as they worked to support our students. It is past time for us to come together, to demand a bigger voice in the workings of the school district, and to grow the solidarity within our ranks. I would be honored to serve a last term on the SEA board as a high school representative. I am a Special Education teacher at West Seattle High School, a member of our Equity Team, a dedicated advocate for students and staff throughout the district.

McKenzie, Aryn

No statement submitted.

Morgen, Jeff

Not attached and independent of any particular SEA faction, I am posing my candidature based on my devotion to equity and my service record to and for all our union's internal and external publics. I show up and every SEA concern is my concern and indeed I have felt a calling to be of service and represent my high school constituencies. Including, but not limited to, it is I who wrote SEA, WEA, and NEA motions that brought school drinking water testing for lead, medical professionals present at all high contact middle and high school sports, and it is I who argued and advocated for the lowered counselor student ratios in all our schools. Count on me to represent you and yours and I promise to be a bridge that connects all our public's to our union.

Stewart, Brian

No statement submitted.

Trangen, Edmund

I have served as a building representative at Roosevelt High School since 2014, acted as a picket captain in 2015 and a zone captain in 2018, and served on our last bargaining team. A better world is possible through the

power of solidarity, and it is my goal as a board member to elevate and empower our members. Our union is the heart of racial equity work in our district, and I promise to continue to train myself as an ally and advocate in that work.

Vecchio, Michelle (Meesh)

At Nova, I have been on the BLT that mandated Ethnic Studies for graduation. I have supported the efforts of the Black Prisoners Caucus and have participated in our restorative and transformative practice. My priority is to increase the hiring and retention of teachers of color and build professional development that reaches beyond cultural responsiveness towards active anti-racism. Serving as 504 coordinator and MKV liaison with a 70% LGBTQ+ student body has also highlighted intersections of inequity. The students furthest from educational justice need more counselors, nurses, and support workers, with progressive city and state taxation to support these positions. Through Bargaining for the Common Good, I am working with unions across Seattle as the SEA representative. The strategies we share to support workers and communities strengthen us all. Organized labor can be a powerful force for change with membership access and the belief we are being heard.

Vinson, Justin

Past SEA Board member. Together we will organize educators to fight back against corporate interests. Fully fund education by taxing the rich. Not me, us.

SEA Board - Middle School Representative

Lockenvitz, Sarah

I have learned so much about what union leadership is about, during my first term as middle school representative. I stepped in to fill a vacated position and was immediately welcomed by the Board. My motives remain consistent in running for this second term: 1. I must do what I can to contribute solutions to the problems we encounter in Seattle Public Schools. 2. I must do what I can to help leverage voices of those most marginalized. 3. I want to help ensure that racial equity is at the forefront of important conversations in our Union and in our District. I commit to continue to listen to my middle school constituents and make your voices, your needs, your stories heard. It would be an honor to serve you, Union community, as your middle school Board of Directors Representative.

Treistman, Jeff

I became a teacher to fight for social and racial justice. Since becoming a teacher I have encountered countless barriers to attaining this goal. As a board member I will push an agenda that serves the community, such as eliminating standardized testing, adopting authentic assessments that measure the true brilliance of our

students, implementing ethnic studies, expanding the arts curriculum and creating community schools that address all the needs of our students. I am a long time SEE member and will work toward our slate's platform.

SEA Board - Multi-Grade Representative

DeCarufel, Christina

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as multi-grade rep again. I view this role as one where listening, coaching, and supporting members are all vital. I try to always be learning and sharing what I've learned with members. Our student's success and sense of belonging to the whole community depends on our work together. Each of our members voices and input is needed in our work.

SEA Board - Centrally-Dispatched Representative

Hill, Len

I would like the opportunity to represent members from all bargaining units working out of the JSCEE. The departmental and organizational structure of the JSCEE offers a unique opportunity to recognize and elevate the diverse voices of centrally dispatched members, who may experience challenges accessing association information and the ability to provide input on concerns directly impacting their work groups. I seek to identify potential new members, continue to acknowledge and recommit existing members, while working to ensure all members of the JSCEE have the resources and representation needed to successfully operate within their given work groups. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Hurley, Shelly

As a special education & consulting teacher, I witness many things wrong with how SPS handles education and with how the state views education and educators. As a member of the SEA Board of Governors I'll work to advocate for social justice for our students and educators. I've fought for equity for my colleagues and students on bargaining teams, on the Special Education Task Force and on the board of the SEA Center for Racial Equity where we are working on ways to raise educator voice and to bring awareness to the entire district around bias and racism. I believe all members need to understand their rights and have a voice, so I work to help my fellow educators understand their contracts, so they're treated with dignity and respect. I feel my work has just started and want to continue the important work of organizing and advocating for SEA

Paraprofessional Department President

Rasmussen, Marla

As a special education paraprofessional for over 25 years, I have had the extraordinary experience of working with a wide variety of other paraprofessionals from different job categories. Our bilingual IA's and Family Support Workers, and Headstart family, who know our families better than anyone else, I thank you. Our bus monitors and OT/PT assistants who are often forgotten, I hear you. The job coaches, interventionists and lpn's, you are not alone. DHH and braille assistants, sign language interpreters, we are just getting started. Our special education IA's, I know the struggles with ratios and safety. I want to be there to organize around our very unique needs and empower our paraprofessionals in our schools, programs and work sites! I have served as our treasurer, our para president and as a member at large. I am currently the interim secretary. Realizing that my passion for serving our paraprofessionals has not abated over the years, I am asking for your support for another two years of working for our members. Thank you.

Paraprofessional Department Vice President

Austin, Celina

No statement submitted.

Paraprofessional Department Secretary

Blair, Caritha

I have been a Para for 5 years. I have been my schools Building Rep for the last the last 3 years. I served on the Bargaining Committee this current school year. I fought hard for the extra 1% in the 3rd year of our current contract. I co-trained on the FCS team. I will continue to work hard for my colleagues so that they will be successful and happy in their jobs. I stand up for what's right and what I believe. I am hard-working. I love to laugh but understand that there are times when laughter is not appropriate. I would love to serve as your Para Secretary.

Paraprofessional Department Treasurer

Diaz, Davina

• Lowell Building Association Representative 2017-2020 —Attended all AR Assemblies —Created and Implemented AR monthly Schedule for Lowell Staff & Admin. —Created 'Climate Review Process' regarding building/administrative leadership • SEA New Association Representative Trainings (Facilitator) —November 2017 —November 2018 —November 2019 • SEA Bargaining Team —2018 – 2019 Negotiations —2019 – 2020 Negotiations • Race & Equity Team —2018-2019 —Cohort 5 - Lowell Elementary • WEA State Representative Assembly —April 2019 • WEA Publication Release —February 2019 —10 WA State ESP's Reading A Book About What They Do (Special Needs) • Paraprofessional Department Board Member-At-Large —January 2019 – January 2020 • Paraprofessional Department Treasurer —January 2020 - current

Paraprofessional Department Member-at-Large (for Para BOD)

Jackson, Bruce

I am a member of the Ethnic Studies Advisory Group, The Center for Racial Equity, the Black Lives Matter at School Advisory Board, I am Team Lead for my school's Race and Equity Team, I serve on the BLT and I'm an SEA rep, a WEA rep, an NEA rep. I want to protect the work I've done, and find ways to move that work forward.

Helms, Herminia

I would feel honored to participate in the role of SEA member at large. I love being part of a strong union that not only advocates for our members but encourages us to do the same. I am a strong believer in "knowledge is power", and the more knowledge I gain the more I can do for my people!

Mosley-Freeman, Angie

I am running for the Member at Large position on the Paraprofessional Board; so that I can be my best me, be a part of a support group for our members, our students as well as our community. I've supported staff who have questions, students who need & want my support, and parents who request my presence. I am a team player; I work for you. Please Vote Angie Mosley as Member at Large for our Seattle Education Association Paraprofessional Board... I don't do it for the income, I do it for the outcome...TRUST IN ME!

SAEOP Department President

Ward-Robertson, Elizabeth

SAEOPs I hope I have really served you well the last two years. I ask for your nomination for two more years to help guide the wonderful work our team has accomplished since our last bargain. It is my hope to see our strong established committees grow into influential partners of the district.

SAEOP Department Vice President

Alefaio, Carrie

I would like to be your SAEOP Vice President for 2 more years.

Nickerson, Kim

Your voice, your desire to be authentically you, your selfless commitment to those you serve, your passion for student learning, your welcoming environment, your talent to achieve more with less, your hunger for professional growth, and your intrinsic belief in the value of a free public education fill me with the desire & passion to serve you.

SAEOP Department Recording Secretary

Talley, Susan

No statement submitted.

SAEOP Department Treasurer

Felder, Antoinette

No statement submitted.

SAEOP Department Member-at-Large (for SAEOP BOD)

Hostetler, Carolyn

No statement submitted.

Ratner, Shannon

No statement submitted.

Watson, Tammy

As a Zone captain I would like to continue the work started this year as a Member at Large. I also will continue my work on the workload and mentor committee to continue to support our amazing community.

Substitutes Department President

Strasner, Stan

As Seattle Substitutes Association (SSA) President, I will continue the fight to expand healthcare, implement a 1:20 sick leave ratio, get more Professional Development opportunities, and start electronic timekeeping. I'm proud of the gains Seattle Education Association has won for subs in Seattle and I'm eager to help lead SSA to make better schools for all educators and students. For the past two years, I've served as SSA Vice President. I've also represented substitutes on two SEA bargaining teams. This is my fourth year as a Certificated Substitute in the Seattle Public Schools. I believe that our strength as educators is in our connections to our community. That's why our union needs to focus on building strong connections with the community and other unions. We need to stand up with our families and communities to fight for racial, gender, environmental and economic justice both inside and outside the classroom. As a democratic socialist, I believe working people taking collective action can make change happen. So many subs I've met have told me in one way or another how they are hungry to fight for a better world. Get involved. We can win.

Substitutes Department Vice President

Henry, Peter

I have served as President of the Seattle Substitutes Association for almost 5 years, and it is time for someone new. But I would like to continue my work as Vice President. During my term, Substitutes have improved our visibility and standing within the Union and the district, and I think I can be effective in a supporting role. My

desire is to build our Union's strength by increasing member voice and participation, and I hope I can help bring this about. Please vote for me for Substitute Association VP!

Substitutes At-Large Board Member (for Subs BOD)

McDonald, Joyce

For the past year I have worked to build our union by building and improving our New Hire Orientation program. I want to continue this important work to build our union, build our substitute department and to ensure a strong voice for our members. I ask for your vote to continue this important work.