

Derek Grandbois

Seattle Education Association President

I am a proud member of the Seattle Education Association and I recognize all of the hard work we have done as an organization. I've observed, in my 12 years as a Seattle teacher, the strength and influence of the union grow. We have increased our membership rolls, improved educator support, gained significant pay increases, and have become leaders in racial equity work. Given this, we still have more room to grow to reach our full strength and potential! This is how we get there:

Within the SEA:

- We have to engage all members and continue to increase our membership.
- We have to lead and fight for racial, social and environmental equity for staff and students.
- We have to demand equitable treatment of our SAEOPS, Paraprofessionals, and Substitutes.
- We have to increase support services for our most vulnerable schools, staff, and students.
- We have to raise up the voices that are the most in need, marginalized and innovative.



Our schools are safe havens for many students and families, and are often the first place they look for support. Educators are looked on as leaders, not only in the classroom, but in the community as well. As a union of leaders, it is time to bring our collective strength to causes that effect our students and therefore our classrooms. These are battles many are fighting on our own; it's time to bring these causes into the light.

In collaboration with community organizers:

- We have to demand equitable access to social services for students and families.
- We have to advocate for housing for all families.
- We have to call for internet access for all.

In a post-Janus world it is imperative that we are ready to defend our right to organize as a union. It is through this collective organizing that we exercise our political power to make our community, schools and families the very best they can be. It is how we show our kids and students that it is not how much money you have, but your voice in concert with others that makes change. As Union President, I will empower our members to realize our collective strength, listen intently and lead graciously. I humbly ask for your vote.

- 12 years in Seattle Public Schools
- Parent of two SPS students and spouse of 14 year SPS teacher
- Currently serve on SEA Board and budget committee
- Current member of Hazel Wolf's BLT and Co-Lead for RET
- 2019 Bargain Team Member
- 4 years as an AR
- 2015 Zone Captain
- 2015-2017 Assessment Committee

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(FLIER #2)



My name is Derek Grandbois and I'm running for SEA President. I want to start by recognizing that we are all living in a fog of uncertainty and it's awkward and frustrating. In times like this, the strength of the SEA plays an important role in showing our members that they are not alone. It is through this unity and caring for each other that we not only endure but become stronger. SEA leadership is fighting every day for your rights, your students and our community, and I will continue this fight once the fog lifts.

My time as a Marine, my work in the classroom and as an AR, has honed my leadership style. One in which I combine compassion, reflection and listening to others

in order to stand-up for what we believe in, and for those who can't stand. This was reinforced during the 2015 strike. I learned how to rally and harmonize the voices I heard, how to show members that the concerns they had were the same concerns of others, and helped members empathize with other members with different interests. I was so inspired to see members take up causes from across the district and make them a priority. It was humbling to see members empowered to hold the district accountable.

Since then I'm continually impressed with the members and their leadership in the union. As a member of the SEA board and of our last bargain, I've met some incredibly thoughtful and forward thinking leaders. The work of the Center for Racial Equity and their coaches, as well the ethnic studies team, substitutes caucus, the special education and dual language task forces, the paraprofessionals and SAEOPs, are all educational leaders that work to make our schools, district and communities a better and more just place, to name a few. I learned through working with these groups, to see my own blind spots and how to use my power to ally with those in need. Last year, during a CRE/DREA led training for Racial Equity Teams, I learned the phrase "build on-ramps to change" rather than "off-amps to inaction." The role of SEA President is to build as many "on ramps" as possible and to start closing the "off ramps." I will do this by bringing the leaders we already have together, empowering and lifting the voices of leaders yet to be recognized. Together we will continue to build a Union that is led by its members and leads the community towards racial, educational and social justice. My name is Derek Grandbois and I ask for your vote.

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