



First Session Wrap Up



Your VEA Bargaining Team met for the first session with the VPS Bargaining team today to exchange initial proposals.

VEA was represented at the bargaining table today by Jeni Macanally (Columbia River HS), Sunny Selders (Washington Elementary), Erin Pendergast (McLoughlin MS), Amy Spofford (Lake Shore), Charlotte Lartey (Gaiser MS), and supported by Jamie Anderson (VEA President) and Graham Picklesimer (VEA Executive Director).

The District Bargaining Team consists of Jeff Fish (Executive Director of HR), Angie O’Leary (HR), Katie Arkoosh (Interim Executive Director of Special Services), Andy Meyer (Principal – Skyview), and Bill Oman (Executive Director of Teaching & Learning).

District Proposals

- 1) **Administrative units:** The district is proposing to add CTE teachers, Teacher Librarians, and Specialized Program teachers into administrative units.
- 2) **Virtual classes:** The district has introduced language addressing secondary “virtual learning” class sizes for courses taught on online platforms (excluding ALE).
- 3) **Special Education LRE staffing:** The district is proposing to eliminate LRE paraeducator staffing in exchange for minimal compensation, and to reduce the frequency of mid-year staffing adjustments.
- 4) **Salary:** While no formal proposal was exchanged today, the district team stated they are only willing to offer the IPD increase (2.6%), calling it “irresponsible” to offer more given an anticipated RIF.

VEA Proposals

- 1) **Voluntary transfer:** The VEA bargaining team has proposed expanded options for voluntary transfers during the Spring staffing process.
- 2) **Safe workplace:** Recognizing that additional staffing and enforcement of existing contract language are the best solutions for improving safety, the VEA team proposed strengthened timelines for responding to in-building safety concerns and the creation of Safety Committees in every building.
- 3) **Insurance and employee protection:** The VEA team has proposed improved coverage and protections for members in the event of a workplace injury.

Future Bargaining Dates

Bargaining sessions will now take place on Wednesdays until tentative agreements are reached. The next bargaining date is February 11, 2026.

Remember to wear **RED** on Wednesdays, in solidarity with the bargaining team. Send VEA your pictures showing in-building support and tag us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! When we stand together, we bargain stronger, because we are #BetterTogether

Wear RED Wednesday



In support and solidarity with the VEA bargaining team.



VEA Bargaining Team members

Amy Spofford (Bargaining chair/Special Education), Sunny Selders (Intermediate Elementary) Erin Pendergast (Middle School), Jeni McAnally (High School), Charlotte Lartey (At-Large), Karina Mattson (At-Large/*Specialist), *Shannon McClelland (Primary), *Brit Behrendt (At-Large). Supported by Jamie Anderson (VEA President) and Graham Picklesimer (VEA Executive Director). *To be confirmed.

Make sure VEA has your non-school contact information for sharing bargaining information! Send any changes to your home email to cbrown@washingtonea.org