

## June Update

### Bargaining Update

Your VEA bargaining team and the District management team participated in mediation on **Monday, June 15**. Unfortunately, the all-day session did not bring us closer to reaching a tentative agreement. Much of the day was spent in separate caucuses, with only a few joint sessions.

During a joint session, the District team encouraged us to consider "out of the box" ideas for settlement, but gave us zero ideas to work with. Your VEA team brought forward several creative proposals aimed at meeting members' needs and addressing key concerns. However, those ideas were not accepted, which made for a frustrating process and left us without much progress toward resolution.

Our next mediation session is scheduled for **Friday, June 26**, and we remain committed to continuing the work of securing the strongest agreement possible for our members.

If an agreement is not reached before the start of the school year, members will begin the year receiving at least the **2.6% IPD increase**. Any additional compensation negotiated through bargaining would be applied retroactively.

Please continue to keep an eye on your **personal email accounts** for future bargaining updates and information about an upcoming General Membership Meeting and ratification vote.

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### Val Ogden Dinner

If you are a current WEAPAC contributor and are interested in attending the Val Ogden Dinner on August 22<sup>nd</sup> (5:00 pm at the Hilton – Vancouver), please let the VEA office know ASAP! This interactive event will include an opportunity to meet and speak with statewide leaders.

**Special guest speakers:** Washington State Attorney General, Nick Brown and Washington State Lieutenant Governor, Denny Heck.

### Professional Development Opportunities

#### 2026 WEA Teaching Equity Conference – July 24

Explore strategies for creating equitable, relationship-centered learning environments that improve academic and social-emotional outcomes for all students. Through the lens of Washington's Equity-Based School Practices, participants will examine culturally responsive literacy instruction, inclusive use of technology and AI, and the power of asset-based storytelling to strengthen engagement, belonging, and student success.

Register here: <https://wea-win.org/events/1429?type=Event>

#### Teaching to Combat Islamophobia: Building Understanding and Belonging (Zoom) – June 23

This professional learning opportunity introduces a newly developed curriculum from the Puget Sound ESD to help schools address Islamophobia and foster belonging for Muslim students. Participants will deepen their understanding of Muslim identities and historical contexts, examine common misconceptions in K–12 instruction related to Islam and the Arab world, and explore practical, culturally responsive strategies for integrating these topics into existing coursework. Educators will leave with tools to facilitate difficult conversations, address bias and misinformation, and create more inclusive learning environments where all students feel seen and valued.

Register here: [Noor: Illuminating History of Islam and Advancing Justice and Education](#) (through PD Enroller)

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### WEA Summer Membership Outreach Calls

Beginning June 22 and continuing throughout the summer, WEA will be conducting outreach calls to current members. Members may receive a call from **(253) 765-7196** to verify contact information, answer a few Year-Round Organizing questions, and, for those planning to retire, learn more about joining WEA-Retired.