



P.E.A. Patch



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Marysville-Pillchuck

My heart goes out to the students and staff members at Marysville-Pillchuck. When I imagine the senseless loss and the terror staff and students experienced I am deeply saddened. I never dreamed there ever would be a day we educators would need to worry about such an event. Yet this is the reality for all of us who work in or have a connection with schools.

Why is the United States #1 in gun deaths among developed countries? How come almost 100,000 people each year are shot or killed by a gun. Why is it that among 23 populous, high-income countries, 80% of all firearm deaths occur in the United States?

The conversation in my mind goes beyond laws, we need to look deep into who we have become and why. We need common-sense measures to prevent gun violence and keep our students, and ourselves safe.

What you hardly hear in the media is the heroic reactions of the teachers and other staff members of that tragic event. PEA has sent our condolences to the Association in Marysville-Pillchuck.

Think of all the things we could do with the time and resources wasted on that event to improve education for our students and staff if school shootings were not part of our daily reality.

Plan 3 Contribution Rate Change

January 2015 is the last opportunity you will have to change contribution rates to your TRS Plan 3 retirement account.

At this time, your employer requires you to contribute 5% of your salary to the TRS Plan 3. But that may not be enough.

At Rep Council our VALIC Financial Advisor Andy Davidson reviewed our options. Building reps have fliers about the services he offers for those with questions.

Call DRS Employer Support Services at 800.547.6657.

VALIC has worked with WEA for fifty years.

Call VALIC at 800.892.5558

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PEA BARGAINERS AT WORK FOR YOU!

Association and District bargainers have hammered out a new Activities Salary Schedule. The stipend amounts are based on percentages of the 1st Step of the BA Column of the State Teacher Salary Schedule. This is a win /win for the district and the association. When the base salary increases so does the stipend.

This is only Phase I of the process as the new schedule only refers to secondary stipends and Instructional Leadership positions.

PEA now must focus on the elementary stipends. We will hopefully have this ready to go by the next school year. Elem representation is important on this committee. If interested contact the PEA office, or see your building rep for information.

THANK YOU BARGAINERS!

CORE 24

The purpose of Core 24 is as follows: Core 24 is a graduation requirement for the class of 2019 (this year's 8th graders.) The task force made up of PEA leadership, teachers, administrators, and parents will explore a variety of schedules which provide increased opportunities for students to earn credits outside of the current 6 period day model. We are looking for potential benefits to both struggling students and students interested in additional enrichment opportunities in elective/advanced courses.

There are many contractual issues to be discussed which all secondary members should be aware of. PEA will work closely with the task force and keep members informed. You more than likely will be surveyed so your input can be added to the information presented to the task force. *Secondary representation on the committee is important.* If interested contact the PEA office. 851.8710.

Letter of Agreement

A letter of agreement has been reached between the District and the Association in regards to the TPEP procedures.

The three page agreement letter covers evaluators, framework and scoring, instructional framework, criterion performance scoring, evidence and artifacts, comprehensive evaluation procedures, goals, focused evaluation and dates for each.

This is a living document as OSPI and the Legislature seem to tweak the rules as time goes by. The district and the association have worked in collaboration to insure an effective process is in place. **Thank you bargainers** for all your time and effort. Special thanks to **Carol Rivera**, PEA Vice president, for her expertise as a WEA Trainer of this evolving process.

SUBSTITUTES: We all know substitutes are needed, not only for the classroom but as bus drivers. If you know of anyone who may qualify as a substitute, emergency teacher, or is interested in being a substitute bus driver have them access the District website. **HELP!**