



On Friday February 25, I traveled to Madison, Wisconsin, where on Saturday 100,000 people came to the capital, braving 10 degree temperatures and steady snow, to tell Gov Walker that their rights are not negotiable. They came from all over Wisconsin and the country. They came with their signs, each one more creative than the next. And they came with a sense of solidarity on a scale of which hasn't been seen in the US for a long time.

Despite exemptions for police and firefighters, police officers from all over Wisconsin came out, carrying signs, "Police for Labor." Firefighters have been at the heart of the struggle since the first occupation of the capitol building. I stayed the night in the capitol and witnessed state troopers try to empty the building the following day. Before that people donated food from all over the world, as far away as Egypt, calling in orders to the local pizzeria. Complete strangers left their children in the care of fellow occupiers in the 24-hour day care. People I talked to, mostly teachers, were thrilled I came out to support them and relay the motion SEA passed in support on Valentine's Day.

Recently Walker and his GOP brethren have passed the most egregious, anti-union parts of the widely despised bill, separating them from the fiscal elements and thereby

proving the measures' irrelevance towards balancing the budget. Now unionists in Wisconsin and throughout the country have to consider which way forward. The tea-party loons and their corporate backers remain determined to deal a death-blow to unions for good. Our resolve needs to be equally strong and backed by appropriate measures. In Michigan conservative legislators recently passed rules allowing administrators to unilaterally nullify union contracts and remove elected officials.

Over a hundred years ago union workers had no right to even organize, let alone strike for decent wages and conditions. Nevertheless, this is what was necessary for them to merely establish union recognition. But in doing so they accomplished so much more. They gave hope and confidence to millions more that they could win things long thought impossible, like an eight hour working day. Ironically, Wisconsin itself was the site of some of these earlier accomplishments of the labor movement.

It is do or die for labor now. If labor leaders are unwilling to mobilize members to strike in the face of extinction a new leadership will need to emerge. Furthermore, unions all over will have to stand by unions in WI to ensure their success not for the sake of it, but for their own survival. Solidarity!

- Dan Troccoli

Survey

with each newsletter, SEE will run an online survey for SEA members

The current Survey asks about your experience with the New Evaluation System

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/B2X7J52>

Upcoming Events:

*Achievement Gap or Opportunity Gap?
Fighting Racism in the Public Schools.*

Thursday May 19th, 2011

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Featuring: James Bible, NAACP

Wayne Au, UW

Jesse Hagopian, SEE

Riki Malone

Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, SU

November 2011:

School Board Elections for seats held by

Steve Sundquist, Sherry Carr,

Harium Martin-Morris and Peter Maier.

Education News Websites:

Seattle Schools Blog

<http://save-seattle-schools.blogspot.com/>

Seattle Education 2010

<http://seattleeducation2010.wordpress.com/>

Social Equality Educators
is a growing caucus of the
Seattle Education Association.

We meet monthly

SEE's website:

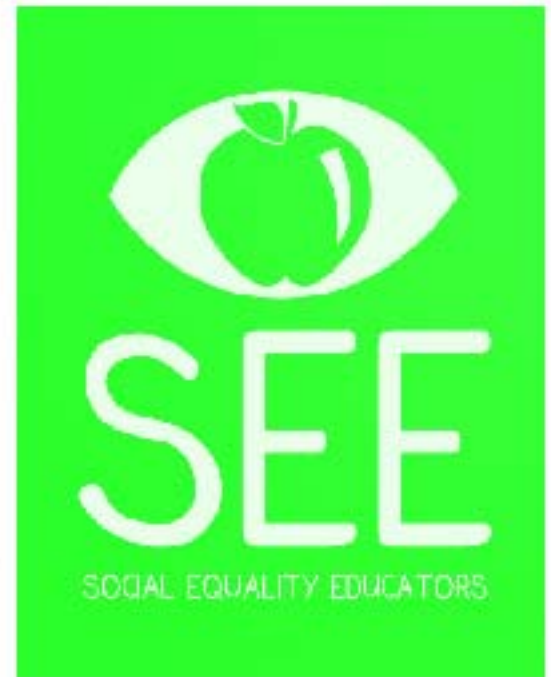
<http://seattlesee.org/>

SEE listserve:

seattle-see@googlegroups.com

Issue #2

5 Reasons to *Scrap the MAP*



1) *The MAP test is not Mandated :*

- Our contract does not require the MAP specifically. Nor is there any state law mandating a district test. 6696 merely specifies the use of “multiple-measures” to assess student learning. End of unit tests in Everyday Math for instance. And our own classroom assessments!

2) *ERROR--Cannot Compute:*

- The MAP is a very inaccurate measure of student ability. It is somewhat of a joke among students who routinely ‘game’ the test by intentionally answering early questions incorrectly so as to make the rest of the test easier. Furthermore, the makers of the test do not design the questions according to each teachers curriculum, assuring that there will be content assessed that students have not learned yet.

3) *Resource or District Requirement?*

- A minority of teachers find the MAP useful in their classrooms while most abhor it. However, as it stands the test is not so much a resource available to teachers as it is a district mandate imposed upon them. It is clear that the reason is more likely to assess the teachers than it is the students.

4) *Conceived in Sin:*

- The contract with the Northwest Evaluation Association for the MAP test is a result of the cronyism of the former superintendent. Even the state auditor found this action to be an ethics violation. It was a unilateral move on the part of Maria Goodloe-Johnson and the School Board with little to no input from teachers, hence the inaccuracy. The stain of Goodloe-Johnson’s consistent breach of trust with teachers and the public will forever mar the MAP.

5) *Now is the time to Push:*

- With Goodloe-Johnson so unceremoniously fired, opposition to policies she enacted has never been higher. Further evidence of this was seen during the recent Town Hall forum that SEA president, Olga Addae participated in, which showed widespread frustration with the superintendent and the central office. It is important to send a message to the ed deformers that our schools are not for sale and that when their cronies leave we will rid ourselves of their legacy too.