

Seattle Resolution 31730, affirming Seattle as a “Welcoming City that promotes policies and programs to foster inclusion for all, and serves its residents regardless of their immigration or refugee status”<sup>3</sup>. In addition, just a few weeks ago, Superintendent Nyland passed Board Resolution 2017/18-5 calling on the federal government to provide students without documentation legal protections in school.<sup>4</sup> While none of this language provides legal protection to a student in the face of an officer with a warrant, numerous civil rights organizations including the ACLU of Washington have produced know-your-rights literature for students available online. In the wake of the onslaught of anti-immigrant legislation coming down from the White House, we must be prepared to support and defend each student because all of them--especially the most vulnerable--deserve to be and feel safe in the classroom.

## Union Democracy at Risk: Vote Yes! Simple Majority for Work Stoppages like with Contract Ratification Votes

By Roberta Lindeman and Dan Troccoli

The SEA Representatives will consider and vote on an amendment to the union's by-laws at the October Representative Assembly. Here we will provide some background to this amendment proposal and why we think its passage is crucial.

Last May our union voted on whether to go on a one-day strike. The SEA Rep Assembly (RA) considered this proposal and then decided to have the SEA membership vote for numerous reasons including:

- the legislature's failure to fully fund public schools (again and perennially now),
- threats to union security in the form of court cases (Janus v AFSCME) before the Supreme Court and the ongoing debate in Congress over unions and the right to organize, and
- the frustration felt by millions of working people with Donald Trump's inauguration even after his failing to win the popular vote.

The yes votes for the strike were 45%. A clear majority of the union was opposed to the May Day strike. But what most people probably weren't aware of was how an amendment had been made to the original motion from the RA floor that day requiring a 75% threshold in order to pass, instead of the previous practice of a simple majority of 50% plus 1 needed for contract ratification votes.

To be clear, we should always strive to have the most buy-in for any work action, including a one-day work stoppage. However, SEE members were frustrated by the hasty roll out of the one-day strike vote by the SEA leadership. SEA members were given only a week to have discussions and debates in their buildings about the merits of striking.

One should take the time to understand the gravity of the 75% bar for passage and what it could mean for future votes if this bylaw amendment is not passed. It means a precedent has been set that a

### References:

Know Your Rights: Police in Schools wallet card, ACLU of Washington, <https://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/know-your-rights-police-schools>

Seattle School District #1 Board Resolution 2016/17-12: Affirming the Provision of Safe, Welcoming, & Inclusive Schools for All Students Without Regard to Race, Religion, National Origin, or Immigration Status, 2/15/17

Seattle City Council Resolution 31370, Office of the City Clerk, City of Seattle, 2/2/17, <http://seattle.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2946649&GUID=C10C9E5A-B5E8-4DBF-BB16-89CECD-BD6244>

Seattle School District #1 Board Resolution 2017/18-5: Supporting Undocumented Students, 9/20/17

Educators who are interested in more information about DACA should check out the Washington Dream Coalition's Resource Guide: [bit.ly/EducatorGuideWA](http://bit.ly/EducatorGuideWA)

extremely small and undemocratic minority of just over 25% of the membership can determine if the union should strike or not.

We always want high support in the union for a work stoppage to make it effective, but we also need to follow and respect a democratic process. The long term direction of the union is determined over the course of the union debating out various courses of action, acting on them and then assessing and debating them again going forward. By following this process, members develop a perspective on what has worked and not worked for us in Seattle. However, if the union is hamstrung by an undemocratic process whereby a minority can in essence veto any further action, then the whole dynamic is upset.

Democracy can feel messy because of the time required for people to feel that their voice is heard and the lengthy processes that are needed to ensure that happens. But if it is to work, there will always be times when we don't all agree, and we need to move forward on democracy's basic premise - the majority rules.

SEE supports passage of this bylaw amendment because it will:

- establish language in the SEA bylaws that regulates work stoppage votes
- assure the most democratic way, a simple majority, will decide the outcome of a work stoppage vote, as is done in a contract ratification vote, and
- allow the Representative Assembly to decide which of a variety of formats will be employed to conduct the work stoppage vote

We look forward to a healthy democratic debate and vote at the October SEA Representative Assembly.

# Educators' Vision

Published By the Social Equity Educators (SEE)

October 2017

## All Out to Protest Betsy DeVos! Trump-DeVos Disastrous for Public Education

By Doug Edelstein

**B**etsy DeVos is by all measures the worst national Secretary of Education ever to hold the office. She is the worst for kids, parents and families, the worst for teaching and learning, the worst for public education and ultimately the worst for America's best hope -- that excellent public education lifts all people up, promotes equity and justice and prosperity for all, and offers a better future for the people, the nation and the world.

DeVos will be in Bellevue on October 13th, preaching the Trump-DeVos-corporate agenda for education in America – unregulated charter schools, privatization of public schools, vouchers, dismantling of the public school system, anti-LGBTQ justice, corrupt corporate monetization of kids, destruction of student and parent rights, anti-intellectualism, segregation, white preference, religious preference and a back-to-the-Dark-Ages attitude toward science, the arts and humanities.

SEE will be there to reject her and their agenda. Join us -- educators, families, community leaders and working people -- in a loud, clear shout of defiance to the Trump-DeVos – corporate education program. Our demonstration represents our full commitment to excellent public education for all, and everything that means: Full funding, equity, diversity, academic excellence and best-practice teaching.

Why join this protest? In sum because DeVos represents a new Dark Age in education:

- Her policies are destructive for kids. In Detroit, where her influence is most plain and stark, the results of charters and privatization for students and families have been worse than dismal. Student learning has been made less important than the greed of the corporate charter industry. Lily Eskelsen Garcia, NEA President, said of the DeVos policies: “We look at what they did to Michigan public schools.

DeVos destroyed them on purpose to create customers, so they were joyless, underfunded, overcrowded places that people didn't want to work in, and they didn't want their kids in those schools. It was only to create a demand for what she calls the private charter industry.”

- Her program is racist and inequitable. Private for-profit charter schools increase the opportunity gap by many covert means, including restrictive admissions, religious preference, disproportionate discipline and expulsion, transportation obstacles, social pressures, coded institutional racism and more – all the while siphoning public money that should be going into wrap-around programs in robust public schools. They amplify white privilege and degrade minority opportunity.
- She supports discrimination against sexual minorities and refuses to follow laws intended to protect people from sexual assault. She revoked guidelines for allowing trans students to use the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity. She is trying to rescind 2011 Title IX guidance related to schools' obligations to address sexual harassment, including sexual violence. That means LGBTQ students will

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## Protest Betsy DeVos!

**When: Friday October 13, 5pm**

**Where: Hyatt Regency Bellevue**

Why: U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is speaking at the Washington Policy Center's (a right wing, pro-free market non-profit) annual dinner.

**Get on the Seattle Education Association's buses!**

The SEA will provide buses at Rainier Beach, Chief Sealth, and Roosevelt High Schools.

Fill out this Google form to reserve a space on a bus. Family members are fine, but no students unless adult family members accompany them:

<https://goo.gl/forms/YMElpcMh4upcEWFk1>

Professional Development will end at 3 p.m. on October 13 to allow us time to get to buses that will start leaving at 3:30. As each one leaves, another will take its place.)

## Upcoming Social Equity Educator meeting

All Seattle Education Association (SEA) members who believe in bringing social justice ideas into our classrooms and union are welcome and encouraged to attend. Our next meeting:

**When: Sunday October 29 – 10am-Noon Where: Savery Hall, room 136 at the UW**

Contact us for details: [www.socialequalityeducators.org/join-us/](http://www.socialequalityeducators.org/join-us/) or call: 206-851-4963



### Educators' Vision

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### Mission

Social Equity Educators (SEE) is a new rank-and-file organization of educators inside the Seattle Education Association that seeks to transform education in terms that empower students, teachers, and the communities that our public schools serve. As members of the SEA we understand that the educator's union has a vital role to play in creating an equitable education system. As educators we understand the importance of using culturally relevant and holistic curriculum to empower our students. We have come together to fight against the corporate reform of our schools and to organize for a socially just education system.

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have less protection from assault, and be less likely to report it if it occurs.

- She is rolling back the standards of proof required for campus rape to make it tougher for rape victims to press a case. The Obama standard of “preponderance of the evidence” is going away, to be replaced by the higher “clear and convincing” standard, during Title IX sexual assault violence investigations. That means rape victims can expect no support from the Trump-DeVos administration.
- She is egregiously unqualified for the job. She has little knowledge or experience with public schools. She doesn't support them. She shares none of the values they represent, their goals and purposes, their value and function in the American economy, their importance to American justice and democracy, their possibilities. She has no commitment to the public school system itself – indeed, her purpose is to dismantle it and replace it with private for-profit charter schools. She is ignorant of what teaching and learning are, best-practice standards of teaching, assessment, inclusion, equity and school administration – in short, how to run great public schools.
- She is ending the DOE's efforts to investigate systemic civil rights violations, saying she wants to look at individual cases without considering the wider systemic civil rights and educational equity issues they represent. Thus, systemic racism is untouched and unchallenged by the Department of Education.
- Her education spending blueprint for 2018 would eliminate more than 20 educational programs that benefit low income students, students with special needs, students of color, bilingual students and other marginalized students, and redirect the money to expanding charter and for-profit private school initiatives.
- She refused to say whether the federal government would withhold funds from private schools that discriminate. That would be a state matter, she said – thus defining a way for a return to Jim Crow schools in the South and elsewhere.
- Federally guaranteed civil rights like free speech, due process, freedom of the press and academic freedoms would not be guaranteed in private schools – she said they would be matters of the language of private contracts.
- Her faith-based charter schools and clear evangelical/fundamentalist Christian education initiatives are a crime against the Constitution's entitlement clause, which guarantees religious freedom and clearly states that the state (through its schools) shall not be the sponsor of any religion.
- She represents the interests of billionaires whose corporations will make schools into profit centers

and squeeze billions of dollars of public money from families and communities. High-stakes standardized testing corporations, phony online education corporations and textbook corporations – and yes, private prison corporations, which are sure to make windfall profits from the Trump-DeVos program – love the DeVos program.

The stream of outrages seems endless from Betsy DeVos. But education must prevail over ignorance. Truth must defeat lies. Justice must overcome injustice. We must show up on October 13th and let her and the Trump oligarchs know that public education is strong and getting stronger, and that we will not allow our children, students and schools to be sold for the profit of billionaires.

(Sources used for this article include on-line interviews, the New York Times and various news sources)

**“The bottom line is there is no reason to trust this woman.”**

– Lily Eskelsen Garcia, President, NEA.

## What to do if ICE is in your classroom?

By Matthew Maley

In light of the threats from the current administration to revoke visas granted through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) action there has been much concern and confusion over how to handle a potential Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) visit to our schools and classrooms. First and foremost, educators should become familiar with their own building's policy on working with law enforcement and encourage students to do the same. As with when speaking to city police and school resource officers, students always have the right to remain silent and request legal representation. If an officer attempts to search a student or their belongings without a warrant signed by a judge, it is perfectly within a student's rights to refuse them; likewise it is within their rights to refuse any further questions at any time.<sup>1</sup> Certain individual officers may use the pretext of this assault on DACA in an attempt to convince educators, parents and students that it is within their rights to take a student into custody, however, it bears repeating that without a warrant, educators and students are well within their rights to refuse an interview or search--on school grounds and off. The relevant legal basis is the 1982 Supreme Court ruling *Pyler v. Doe*, which ensures “all children are legally entitled to equal access to a free public education regardless of immigration status”, as cited in Seattle School District #1 Board Resolution 2016/17-12.2 On February 2, former Mayor Ed Murray signed City of

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## Defend DACA! Solidarity with Immigrants!

*Editor's note: On September 5, the racist, xenophobic President Trump announced an executive order that will eventually end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Originally passed by an executive order by President Obama in 2012, it protected eligible undocumented youth from deportation for two years by granting them a work permit. Amongst other eligibility requirements, the person had to arrive in the U.S. before the age of 16 and reside in the U.S. since June 2007. The program is set to end on March 5, 2018.*

According to the Washington Dream Coalition, there are some 250,000 undocumented immigrants in Washington State. 159,875 children in our state have at least one undocumented parent. While there are 43,000 undocumented people eligible for DACA in this state, only 17,000 have been approved.

Nationally, around 800,000 people are protected by DACA. However, there are over 11.5 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. Members of Social Equity Educators believe that programs like DACA need to be expanded to protect all the undocumented. Towards this end, our members advocated for a one-day strike on May 1 (May Day) earlier this year.

In the April issue of Educators' Vision we argued, “Since Trump's election, he's stacked his administration with racists and corporate executives while pushing executive orders and legislation to attack women, immigrants, Muslims, refugees, the LGBTQ community, unions, the environment, and seemingly any and all things progressive. Trump specifically targeted Muslims with a ban on immigrants from seven Muslim majority countries (Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Iran, Sudan, and Somalia).

He's attacked Latinx immigrants by calling for building an even bigger wall on the U.S./Mexico border. In addition, his executive orders call for a massive expansion in the deportation of immigrants...All of these policies will negatively affect the immigrant students, who attend our schools, and their families...we feel the issue of solidarity with immigrants, refugees, and Muslims is the most pressing reason to continue to support the May 1 rally and march led by El Comité and the May 1st Action Coalition.”

In solidarity with all the youth affected by the attack on their DACA status, Educators' Vision presents the following two pieces. The first is by a Chief Sealth International High School student who helped organize a walkout of 100 high school students and others in solidarity with DACA youth. The second is by SEA member Matthew Maley. He explains educators' rights if ICE tries to enter your school and classroom.

## Seattle Students Walkout for DACA!

By Amad Ross

We stood and listened as our peers shared stories of hope, oppression and resistance. It was the first time some of us realized how many of our high school classmates are undocumented. But it won't be the last time we stand to protect their rights.

On September 28, students from across Seattle walked out of their high schools to demand better treatment of their immigrant peers. Roughly 100 of us converged outside Seattle Central College to hear stories and poetry by undocumented students.

Many spoke of the heightened fear they face since the Trump administration announced the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Others spoke about how under-supported they feel in their high schools and colleges. We listened, then marched with them to City Hall and demanded that they receive better support from our schools.

According to an issue brief by the Migration Policy Institute, over 350,000 middle and high school students are eligible for DACA. Without DACA, these students face an uncertain future because their status makes them ineligible for federal student aid.

These concerns were echoed by students at the rally, many of whom will apply to colleges in the U.S. this year.

By repealing DACA, Trump has thrown these lives into uncertainty with the stroke of his pen. Our high schools must work to ensure that these students have the same opportunities as their peers.

As we marched, we chanted, “Immigrant rights are human rights,” “No one is illegal” and “All people are welcome”--phrases that are truisms in a just society, yet radical in our own.

The event was organized by fewer than 10 students from five high schools. One of them was Amina Dawud, a senior at Franklin High School and child of immigrants. When we first met to organize the walkout, Amina told me why she felt the need to make a statement:

“I have seen how much DACA helped these people. Hearing my parents tell their stories and explain what they fled from, I knew that those supported under DACA had fled from just as poor situations.”

When Amina saw ICE officers across the street of her high school campus, she knew that students had to stand up. “We have many students who are undocumented,” she said. “I didn't even know that my best friend is undocumented until recently. So I knew I needed to do something--I knew I needed to get involved.”

Our demands were clear. Through our chants and speak-outs at Seattle Central and City Hall, we pressured Seattle schools to remain a welcoming place for undocumented students and provide adequate resources towards that end.

This march was the start of something bigger--a broader coalition by and for students devoted to fighting for immigrant rights. We are organizing to protect one another, and we will make our voices heard.

(This article was originally printed at: <https://socialistworker.org/2017/10/03/seattle-students-walk-out-for-daca>)