



Omaha Education Association

402-346-0400 • 4202 So. 57th St. • Omaha, NE 68117 • omahaoea.org

Tip Off

September 2024 • Issue 1



Kathy Poehling

OEA President

kathy.poehling@nsea.org

Let's Create Magic Together

Ah, the sweet sound of school hallways bustling with life again! Welcome back, dear teachers and staff! Whether you're a seasoned educator or a fresh-faced newbie, I hope your summer break was filled with sunshine, relaxation, and maybe just a hint of adventure.

As you step back into the hallowed halls of academia, remember that you're not just educators; you are shapers of young minds, builders of dreams, and occasional fixers of jammed locker combinations. So, let's dust off those chalkboards (or digital whiteboards, because we're fancy now) and dive headfirst into another year of inspiration, growth, and the occasional paper airplane incident.

May your coffee be strong, your lesson plans engaging, and your patience level set to "Zen Master." And hey, if you need a morale boost during a particularly chaotic lunchtime, just remember: You've got this!

So, here's to the late-night grading sessions, the quirky student questions, and the heartwarming moments that make it all worthwhile. Let's create magic together, one algebra equation or historical anecdote at a time!



Terri Childers

Vice President – Advocacy

terrichilders@msn.com



Kathy Poehling

President

Omaha Education Association

Our OEA Member Organizers, OEA leaders and Organizational Specialists enthusiastically welcomed new OPS educators to the fold.



Faith Johnson

Vice President – Member Benefits

flj448@gmail.com



This summer Omaha Public Schools Superintendent Matthew Ray visited with OEA President Kathy Poehling about the future and what they want for OPS students.

OEA is a local affiliate of the Nebraska State Education Association and the National Education Association, America's oldest and largest organization dedicated to advancing the cause of public education.

Public school supporters surpass signature goal

We had only 67 days – the shortest timeline for a petition drive in the state’s history – and Nebraska public school supporters rose to the occasion, again.

The Support Our Schools Nebraska coalition needed to collect 61,621 signatures to let voters repeal or retain a bill that spends millions of public tax dollars to pay for private schools. The coalition submitted more than 86,000 signatures to the Nebraska Secretary of State to ensure the issue will appear on the November ballot. The group also exceeded the 38-county requirement with 5% of voters signing the petition in more than 60 of the state’s 93 counties.



This is the second time Support Our Schools Nebraska has collected enough signatures to ensure voters have a say on a legislative bill that diverts public tax dollars to pay for private schools.

This year’s sprint to collect signatures was a grassroots effort from a broad base of nonprofits supporting public schools. The effort included more than 2,800 volunteers who circulated petitions and coordinated more than 800 signing events. More than 1,300 individuals have donated to the effort with an average donation of \$42.

The Secretary of State will forward the petitions to local election officials, who have 40 days to verify the petitions and the signers’ information. Once all petitions have been reviewed and requirements met, the Secretary of State will certify the measure for the November 2024 General Election ballot.



Public School Volunteers collected signatures at an OEA Drive Thru event.

Join an OEA Committee

Omaha Education Association

Committees all meetings are at the OEA from 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

Membership

We can’t do it without you! We need creative people to help us design membership recruitment activities and welcome new educators.

Political Action Committee - PACE

Every decision in education is a political decision so we need to elect people who are going to support education! We need all hands-on deck to get pro-education candidates elected in November 2024.

Compensation and Benefits

If you want to work on salaries, what’s in the master contract, this year’s negotiations, and have input into the long-term discussion on alternative compensation, you need to join the C&B Committee!

Instructional Advocacy

Are you already serving on an OPS instructional committee but wanted to be an OEA voice on that committee? Do you want to help train new teachers? Do you have burning instructional issues (Class size? Curriculum?) that you feel need to be addressed.

Ethnic Minority Affairs

We know we need more minority educators, but we also need more minority leaders in the Association! EMAC encourages ethnic minority participation in all levels of Association work, recommends honorees for the Human Relations Award, and advises OEA leadership on issues of special significant to our ethnic minority members.

Pride in Action

An LGBTQIA+ community of educators working to provide safe schools free of anti-LGBTQ+ bias and intolerance, and to provide sound education programs for all students.

If interested, contact OEA President **Kathy Poehling** kathy.poehling@nsea.org or call 402/346-0400.

Become a
NSEA
CAPITOL
UPDATE
Subscriber

Weekly Capitol Updates are sent to NSEA members via email during the legislative session.

You'll also receive alerts during session and calls to action when we need you to contact your senator.



We are looking for you!

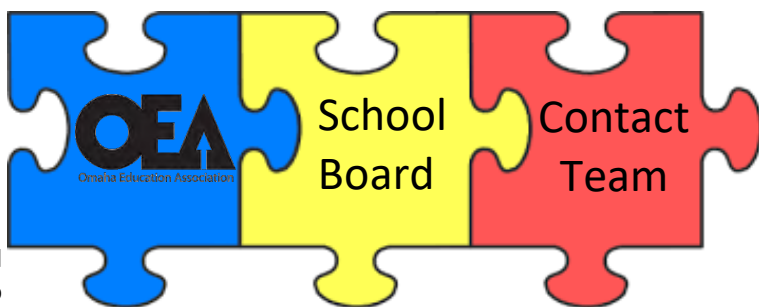
OEA School Board Contact Team

It's all about communication!

OEA is looking for members eager to make a difference.

We need OEA educators to meet with individual OPS School Board Members. We want the OPS Board of Education to hear from you directly. We need people interested in problem solving, collaborating, and listening.

Previous Association experience is not necessary. We will train you. You'll be part of a small team that will build positive relationships and an ongoing line of communication between the OPS Board of Education members and educators in the Omaha Education Association.



Requirements for Contact Teams

- represent the OEA members, not individuals.
- commit to the initial training in November.
- meet with their OPS Board members within a designated week.
- meet with OEA executive team and/or staff prior to meeting with OPS Board members.

Expectations

1. Complete initial training. The training may be offered on two different dates.
2. Represent the Association as agreed to during planning meetings.
3. Possess excellent communication skills.
4. Listen carefully and take notes about concerns of the OPS Board member during meetings.
5. Report after every meeting to the OEA Vice President–Advocacy.
6. Commit to a minimum of one year—may be ongoing into future years.
7. Meet with the OPS Board member three to four times a year during the specified week.
8. Meet with OEA executives and/or staff prior to the OPS Board member meetings to learn the topics to be shared with the OPS Board member.
9. Teams will be comprised of three to four members.
10. Individual members of teams may not meet privately with OPS Board members to discuss OEA issues.

Interested in serving on the



School Board Contact Team?

If interested, contact
OEA President **Kathy Poehling**
kathy.poehling@nsea.org
or call 402/346-0400.

OEA believes that meaningful communication between our educators and the OPS Board of Education will amplify all we do to get great results for our students.



When to Call the OEA?

402-346-0400



Concern, Complaint, Grievance?

This could range from placement on the salary schedule, questions about our master agreement, assignment of extra duties, or after school meetings. In all these scenarios it is best to speak to the AR at your building. If they can't answer your questions, you can contact your OS. All these questions and concerns are kept confidential.

Assaulted by a student?

Nothing is too minor. If you are scratched, kicked, bit, punched, etc., please reach out to the OEA immediately. Report to your principal and fill out a first incident report for workman's compensation. Contact workman's compensation at 1-888-354-1015 #1. Then fill out the assault form on the OEA website at www.omahaoea.org. Remember to take care of yourself and that no injury is too small to report.

Placed on administrative leave?

Call your organizational specialist as soon as possible and do not talk to anyone else about this.

Placed on an intervention plan or your principal is questioning your performance?

Reach out to your AR and your Organizational Specialist. You do NOT have to meet with an administrator immediately and you can always have an AR or your OS go with you to all meetings.

Have a conversation with an administrator that you have questions about?

Always follow up with your administrator in an email regarding any information you were given verbally, especially if you have a question or concern. If you need further assistance, check with your AR or OS.

Other questions and concerns?

Just ask. You are a member, and we are here for you.



Nebraska State Education Association

Recommended Candidates

U.S. SENATE

Preston Love

CONGRESS DIST. 1

Carol Blood

CONGRESS DIST. 2

Tony Vargas

NEBRASKA

STATE LEGISLATURE

- LD 01 **Dennis Schardt**
- LD 03 **Victor Rountree**
- LD 05 **Margo Juarez**
- LD 07 **Dunixi Guereca**
- LD 09 **Sen. John Cavanaugh**
- LD 11 **Sen. Terrell McKinney**
- LD 13 **Nick Batter
Ashlei Spivey**
- LD 15 **Dave Wordekemper**
- LD 17 **Cindy Kai**
- LD 21 **Seth Derner**
- LD 25 **Nicki Behmer Popp**
- LD 27 **Jason Prokop**
- LD 29 **Sen. Eliot Bostar**
- LD 31 **Mary Ann Folchert**
- LD 33 **Dan Lonowski
Michelle Smith**
- LD 35 **Dan Quick**
- LD 39 **Allison Heimes**
- LD 45 **Sarah Centineo**
- LD 49 **Sen. Jen Day**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- District 1
Kristin Christensen
- District 2
Maggie Douglas
- District 3
Bill McAllister
- District 4
Liz Renner



Omaha Education Association

RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES

Omaha Public Schools
Board of Education

General Election

**Tuesday,
Nov. 5**



Nick Thielen
Subdistrict 3



Gini Magnuson
Subdistrict 5



Jane Erdenberger
Subdistrict 7



Kimara Snipes
Subdistrict 9

REGISTER

Be Counted. Vote!



**Register To
Vote**

Register Online

(NE Driver's License or State ID Required)

<http://www.ne.gov/go/NEreg2vote>



Printable Registration Form

<https://www.votedouglascounty.com/forms/VoterRegApplicationEnglish.pdf>



**Vote Early
By Mail**

Early Voting Request Application

<https://www.votedouglascounty.com/elections/2024/General/GN24ByMailApplication.pdf>

OEA is a member-directed professional association. Leadership in the OEA is determined through one-person one-vote elections. The Board of Directors are responsible for overseeing all activities of the Association. The Board of Directors is a policy setting group that meets monthly.

All members are invited to attend the Board of Directors meetings: September 4, October 2, November 6, January 8, February 5, March 3, April 2, and May 7. AR Meetings/General Meetings are October 8 and April 8.

A member must memorize the OEA phone number: 402-346-0400. Encourage members with questions or concerns to call the OEA or contact your elected leaders.

The mission of the Omaha Education Association is to advance the professional interests of our members in order to make public education the best it can be for students, staff, and our community.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

School Assignments



Elementary

Jana Deaver / Lothrop
Home email ddeaver@cox.net

Bancroft	Conestoga	Lothrop
Field Club	Gomez Heritage	Pine
Castelar	Liberty	Springville

Diana Casey / Kellom
Home email dpowerwoman@hotmail.com

Central Park	Hartman	Pinewood
Early Childhood at Yates	Kellom	Ponca
Florence	Mount View	Skinner
		Wakonda

Amanda Kloke / Gateway
Home email crazy4butterflies@gmail.com

Fontenelle	Joslyn	Saddlebrook
Gateway	Masters	Sunny Slope
Indian Hill	Miller Park	Western Hills

Michelle Richards / Forest Station
Home email mpietzyk98@gmail.com

Adams	Edison	King
Belvedere	Franklin	Minne Lusa
Druid Hill	Kennedy	Walnut Hill

Dawn Crump / Pawnee
Home email Dmctlc19@gmail.com

Beals	Dundee	Jefferson
Boyd	Gifford Park	Pawnee
Dodge	Jackson	Sherman
		Washington

Edward Ventura / Forest Station
Home email venturaomaha@gmail.com

Catlin	Crestridge	Harrison
Chandler View	Forest Station	Oak Valley
Columbian	Fullerton	Picotte
		Rose Hill

Josh McDougall / Benson West
Home email jwmcdougall1@gmail.com

Ashland	Benson West	Prairie Wind
Park/Robbins	Gilder	Spring Lake
Belle Ryan	Highland	Standing Bear
		Wilson

Middle School

Lori Krebs / McMillan
Home email lorikrebs84@gmail.com

Beveridge	Hale
Davis	King Science

Stacie Stevens / McMillan
Home email Stacie.nicole.stevens@gmail.com

Lewis & Clark	McMillan
Monroe	Norris

Amy Smith / Marrs
Home email amy.smithoea@gmail.com

Bryan Middle	Marrs
Buffett	Morton
Bluestem	

Alternative/TAC

Shannon Heng / Transition
Home email Shannon.heng@outlook.com

Alternative Program	ILP/JP Lord Parrish	Career Center Virtual School
ECSE	Transition Programs	SSP
Blackburn		EDN Birth-3
Accelere	TAC	

Senior High

James Goetz / South
Home email jeg1126@gmail.com

Buena Vista
Central
South

Michelle Settlemyer / Northwest
Home email michelle.settlemyer@gmail.com

Northwest
North
Westview

Rae Carlson / Bryan
Home email Racarbaugh92@gmail.com

Burke
Bryan High
Benson

Congrats...

Their names were drawn for local dues reimbursement for signing up to be a member at one of the new teacher events.



Caitlyn from Indian Hill Elementary



Cecilio from North High



Hunter from Rose Hill Elementary

Having issues or concerns in your building/program, please email or call:



Judy Roach
Elementary

judy.roach@nsea.org
402-660-0949



Kathie Garabrandt
Secondary & Special Programs
kathie.garabrandt@nsea.org
402-676-3245

In addition, you can call:
402/346-0400 or 800/742-0047

Personal email account a must

The line between personal and professional life gets blurred sometimes, especially when it comes to email. While it is convenient to communicate with just one email account, you might want to think twice before casually chatting over school email.

Your school email is district property. That means no one from the district needs to ask your permission to review any emails you have sent or received. This is also the case for any district-issued technology such as laptops or tablets.

Email and technology are not subject to work day hours. It does not matter whether you are “on” or “off-the-clock.” The district owns the property 24/7.

Your personal email, cell phone or computer are not district property. The district does need your permission to access these accounts and devices.

Depending on your school board policy, negotiated agreement and/or staff handbook, the use of personal communication and personal devices may be restricted to outside the contract day.

Consider the following when using school email:

- Are you saying anything disparaging about students, colleagues, administration or the school board? If so, use your personal email on a personal device. Make sure you are sending it to the recipient’s personal email.
- Are you saying something political? Refrain from sending anything promoting or disparaging about ballot measures or political candidates (anyone from city council to the U.S. president).
- Are you saying anything you would want to be private? Be aware that at any time someone can review and read all communications from your school email.

NSEA highly encourages all members to create a personal email account through a non-school platform, such as Gmail to conduct personal and association business. Learn how to set up a personal email account at www.nsea.org/email. If you have questions or concerns about personal communication and your rights, call NSEA at 1-800-742-0047.

*OEA Vice President
Faith Johnson
met with potential members
at DJ Dugout.*



Join Now

<https://www.mynea360.org/s/join-now>

*OEA is speaking up and standing strong
in unity with our members*