

Dear Fellow Members:

This afternoon, we had fourteen members who are working with students face-to-face in our schools speak up at a grievance hearing with the district. VP of Contract Maintenance, Alicia Jasiekiewicz, together with Chair of Communications and Action Subcommittee, Kate Andrus, coordinated an opportunity for members to be heard. Some spoke from personal experiences and others spoke words written by members not comfortable speaking. There were over one hundred members in the meeting, many of whom came to support the educators currently in the buildings.

This grievance is regarding safety in the buildings. These staff members stepped forward to tell their stories about the many safety protocols not being followed in the reopening guidelines. Their stories demonstrated our vulnerabilities and the fear we feel from the inconsistent and often absent communication within our district. We are indebted to these members, they are making the buildings safer for the remainder of the educators who will be returning to the buildings in the near future.

We look forward to more opportunities where members can be heard directly by central office administration on the direction our district will grow. It is in this discomfort that we can experience true growth.

In Unity,

Mary Shepherd

President WREA