

Seattle Education Association Press Release provided by Glenn Bafia on May 8, 2009.

Seattle Superintendent fires 3,300 teachers, violates state labor law

Seattle Public Schools Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson announced today she is firing all 3,300 Seattle teachers instead of agreeing to bargain in good faith over pay and working days.

“Superintendent Goodloe-Johnson’s decision to fire nearly all of Seattle’s teachers is bizarre,” said Olga Addae, Seattle Education Association president. “Her actions are a flagrant violation of state labor law. She can’t do it, and even if she could, what she’s doing is a slap in the face to every teacher in Seattle.”

Goodloe-Johnson mailed termination letters dated Friday, May 8, to every Seattle school teacher with a continuing contract. While claiming to terminate their existing contracts, Goodloe-Johnson also offered them new contracts for fewer work days and less pay. Read the letter here: <http://www.washingtonea.org/docs/SeattleSD.pdf>

The number of teacher work days must be negotiated as part of the collective bargaining agreement between the school district and the Seattle Education Association. SEA and the district began negotiating a new agreement April 20. Addae said Goodloe-Johnson should work collaboratively with teachers instead of threatening their jobs.

Addae said SEA plans to challenge Goodloe-Johnson by filing suit against the district. “This is a dispute over one day. Maybe this kind of disrespectful bully tactic worked back in South Carolina, but Seattle’s students and teachers deserve better from our superintendent,” Addae said. “The cuts in state funding are horrible, but what she’s doing is both illegal and unnecessary.”

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