



Vote Mark Airgood for NEA Executive Committee

- **Build the Mass Resistance to Donald Trump's Vision for America**
- **Defend Immigrant Rights, Public Education and American Democracy**
- **Continue the Strike Wave! The NEA Membership and Student/Community Support Make Our Strikes Strong**

I am a Special Education teacher and long time civil rights and union leader. I ask for your support. The teachers' struggle under Donald Trump is the most important form of mass resistance to Trump and his entire vision of America. Our national strike wave is strong. We have the power to change the whole balance of power in the fight for public education and in the defense of democracy in this nation. It is critical that we continue the strike wave to send a loud and clear message that we have power and are prepared to use it. We cannot allow it to be shut down as we near the Presidential elections. A strictly electoral/legislative strategy cannot win what we need for public education, and cannot be relied on to defeat Trump.

In Oakland, our recent strike had the overwhelming support of students and the community. Nearly all of our members were on the line and 93% of students stayed out of school. However, we did not get a contract that won anything near what we could have. That was not a fault of the strike but of the policy of the top union leadership - starting with the NEA - of letting the strike be contained within the boundary of what was acceptable to the politicians. In California, we need to force Governor Newsom to spend some of the billions of dollars in state budget surplus on public education. As OEA Secretary, I along with Tania Kappner, led the opposition to the TA which eventually passed narrowly in a 58% to 42% secret ballot. If the voting had been open, there is little doubt it would have been defeated.

Our strike wave has the strength to defeat the attacks on public education and especially on the Latina/o, immigrant, and black communities, but we must ensure that we have leaders who are prepared to fight things through to a decisive victory. We must use our strength to set a new agenda for public education.

Members and the community need to know what we are fighting for at every stage. We must strengthen union democracy now in every local across the country. We need full information at every stage of bargaining with the right of an elected strike committee to vote down any attempt to drop our demands! The EON/BAMN caucus is committed to this. We combine teachers and students in this fight and aim to revitalize the union movement and put it in the lead of a mass civil rights movement for public education and equality. Join EON/BAMN. Vote Mark Airgood.

Equal Opportunity Now/By Any Means Necessary Caucus* (EON/BAMN)

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Facebook: *EON/BAMN Caucus – Defend Public Education* 4/2/2019

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