



# 2018 Legislative Conference

Doug Nelson, January 15, 2018



# 2018 legislative session

- 60 day session
- March 8 concludes 😊



# Political Environment

- House: 50 democrats, 48 republicans
- Senate: 25 democrats / 23 republicans plus one democrat
- Governor Inslee, democrat
- 2018 election cycle

## Business to attend to this year

- Fine tune last year's legislation and \$43 billion budget
- Pass capital budget – failed last year for the first time
- Respond to Supreme Court



# Legislative Platform

Critical issues PSE will be pursuing

# 2018 Legislative Platform

**McCleary** – PSE supports full State funding of basic education and eliminating school district reliance on local levies for classified employee services. Any plan to settle the McCleary case should include:

- full funding of classified employee salaries as required by the Washington State Supreme Court by the 2018-19 school year, and,
- rules to implement future salary increases/adjustments that do no harm to current staff.

**Workplace Safety** - When education employees' workplaces are safe, students can receive the education they need to reach their maximum potential. Safety improvements must continue so we can keep up with changing needs. PSE supports the following workplace safety improvements:

- training employees how to support and instruct students with behavioral disabilities,
- semi-annual active shooter training,
- de-escalation training.

**Capital Budget** - For education employees to educate students successfully, we need an ample number of up-to-date buildings, classrooms, and equipment. We support:

- Improved state funding for the State Capital budget,
- Simple majority passage of school district bond measures.

**Paraeducators** – In recognition of the crucial work paraeducators provide students who struggle to succeed in school, PSE supports legislative funding for the development of on-line training modules for paraeducators who work in special education and transitional bilingual programs.

**SEBB Implementation** – We support efforts to preserve and strengthen the implementation of the School Employees Benefit Board (SEBB) for all K 12, ESD (Educational Service District), and charter school employees by January 1, 2020.

## Ongoing Legislative Platform

- PSE supports legislation that strengthens the rights of employees to unionize and requires all union members to pay their fair share of union dues.
- Compensation to attract and retain highly qualified K-12 and higher education employees to include fully funding state salary surveys and indexed COLAs.
- Preserve and fully fund state pensions in good and bad economic times.
- Provide high quality, comprehensive, affordable health care insurance options for state and educational employees.
- Increased funding for higher education.



# McCleary

- ▶ PSE supports full State funding of basic education and eliminating school district reliance on local levies for classified employee services. Any plan to settle the McCleary case should include:
  - ▶ full funding of classified employee salaries as required by the Washington State Supreme Court by the 2018-19 school year, and,
  - ▶ rules to implement future salary increases/adjustments that do no harm to current staff.

# Supreme Court "McCleary" Decision

## ► November 15, 2017

- "the salary allocation model enacted in EHB 2242 complies with the State's obligation to fully fund K-12 basic education salaries, but it will not be implemented by September 1, 2018."
- "the court will retain jurisdiction to ensure full constitutional compliance by the established deadline, and it will maintain the sanction of \$100,000 per day with the expectation that the State will enact measures to achieve full compliance during the regular 2018 legislative session"



# Solution – Governor Inslee

- Increase salary allocation starting September 1, 2018
- \$1 billion
  - Classified employee = \$200-\$225 million
  - Raise state allocation from \$34,180 to \$46,647 (36.5% increase)

## Which leads to a different issue

- Salary increases in 2018-19 school year limited to greater of
  - CPI – Consumer Price Index (current estimate 2.3%) or
  - amount necessary to raise districts average classified salary to district's state funded salary allocation (including regionalization factor)



# Uncertain how “district average classified salary” will be calculated

- ▶ All employees regardless of program?
  - ▶ Basic education employees only
  - ▶ Child nutrition employees not state funded
  - ▶ Bus drivers – funded in different formula
  - ▶ If district hires classified administrators or other higher paid employees, it reduces raise for everyone else
  - ▶ If district lays off lower paid employees, it reduces raise for everyone
- ▶ Reduces and in some cases stops efforts to raise wages based upon market demands

# Workplace Safety

- ▶ When education employees' workplaces are safe, students can receive the education they need to reach their maximum potential. Safety improvements must continue so we can keep up with changing needs. PSE supports the following workplace safety improvements:
  - ▶ training employees how to support and instruct students with behavioral disabilities,
  - ▶ semi-annual active shooter training,
  - ▶ de-escalation training.



# Capital Budget

- ▶ For education employees to educate students successfully, we need an ample number of up-to-date buildings, classrooms, and equipment. We support:
  - Improved state funding for the State Capital budget,
  - Simple majority passage of school district bond measures.



# Paraeducators

- In recognition of the crucial work paraeducators provide students who struggle to succeed in school, PSE supports legislative funding for the development of on-line training modules for paraeducators who work in special education and transitional bilingual programs.



# Background



- After 4 years of trying, in 2017 legislative session PSE passed first in the nation comprehensive paraeducator development program – ESHB 1115
- Continued concern about teacher shortage – especially in programs filled with paraeducators
  - Special education – 63% of instruction hours
  - TBIP (Transitional Bilingual Instruction) – 61.7% of instruction hours



# Building on the past

- In 2016, legislature provided \$1.0 million to develop **basic** paraeducator training modules
- July 1, 2017, **basic** paraeducator training modules went live
  - <https://learningspace.catalog.instructure.com/courses/paraeduc>
- We want legislature to fund:
  - Fine tuning of basic training modules
  - Develop special education paraeducator modules
  - Develop ELL/TBIP paraeducator modules



# HB 2698 – Paraeducator changes

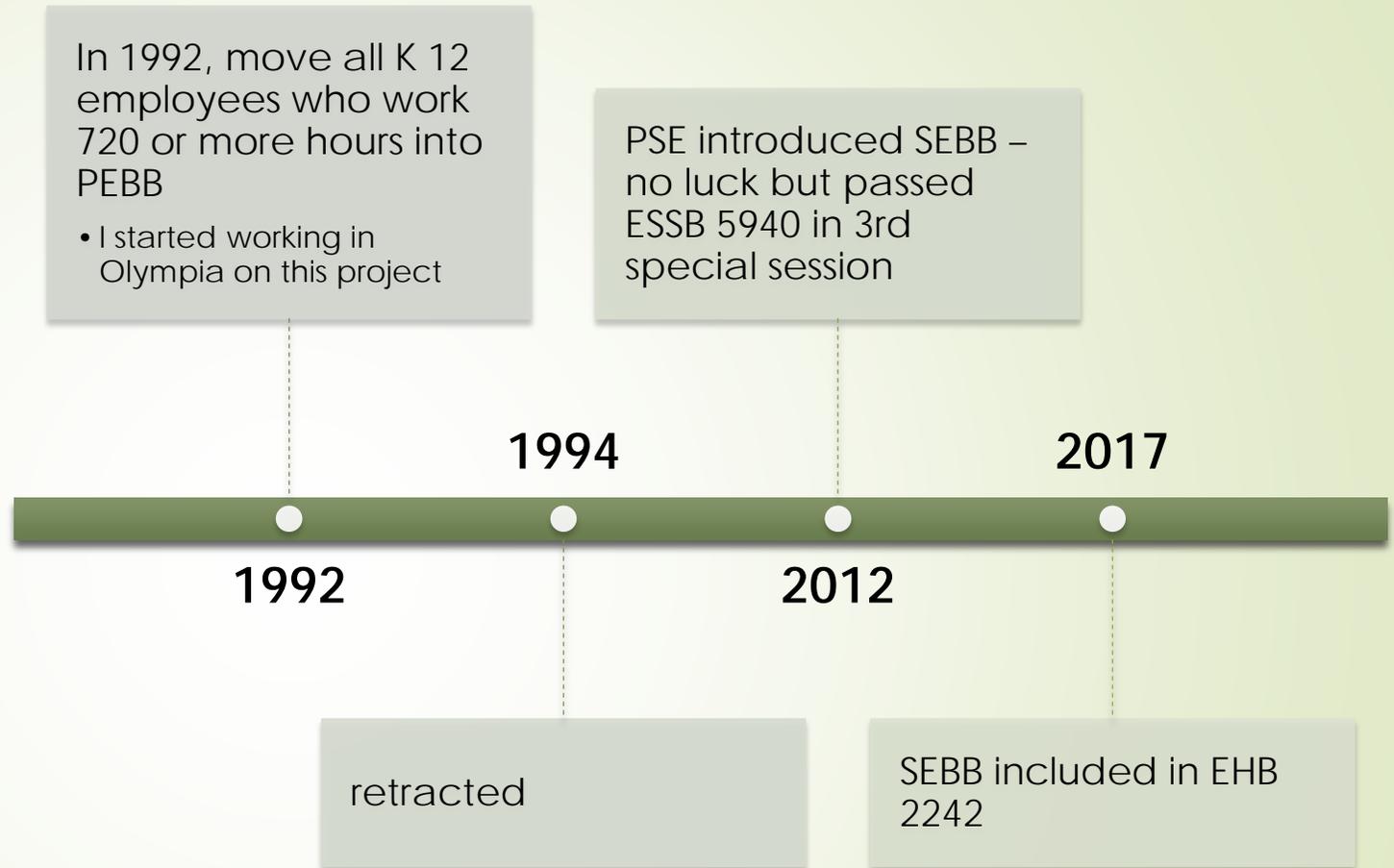
- ▶ Senate Bill on the way
- ▶ One year extension to 9-1-19 to meet minimum employment standards
- ▶ One year extension of district requirement to train employees
- ▶ \$500,000 per year for fine-tuning general paraeducator training, developing special ed and TBIP (Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program)

# SEBB

- ▶ We support efforts to preserve and strengthen the implementation of the School Employees Benefit Board (SEBB) for all K 12, ESD (Education Service District), and charter school employees by January 1, 2020.



# History

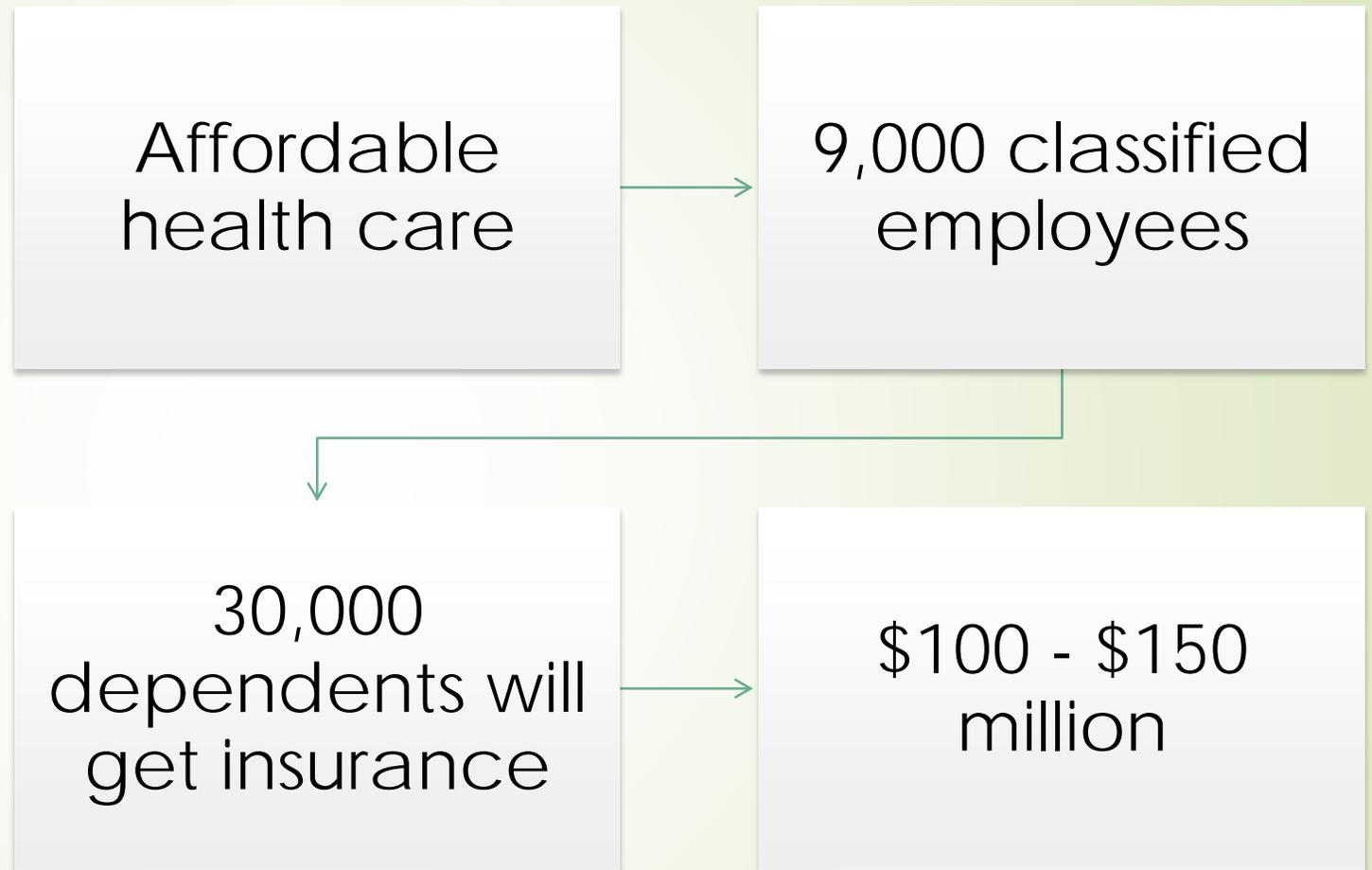


# Significant changes coming

- ▶ Effective January 1, 2020
  - ▶ Insurance Plans
  - ▶ Insurance Premiums
- ▶ State wide bargaining starts June 2018
  - ▶ Same monthly premium funding as state employees \$820 to \$906
  - ▶ Full funding if employee works 630 or more hours
- ▶ Family / single premium payment - \$3:1



SEBB  
impact on  
part time  
employees



## Support efforts to preserve and strengthen

- Governor Inslee budget proposal
  - Increased implementation funding from \$8 to \$21 million
- **Support HB 2438 / SB 6241** – data received 8 months earlier, \$3:1 family / single ratio, 4 month extension of 2018-19 plans
- **HB 2655 / SB 6286** – adding a school board member and school administrator to Board
- **HB 2657 / SB 6288** – allow certain school districts out of SEBB, allow schools to pay for lower than 630 hours eligibility and optional benefits, add another classified and certificated member to Board



# On – going issues

- PSE supports legislation that strengthens the rights of employees to unionize and requires all union members to pay their fair share of union dues.
- Compensation to attract and retain highly qualified K-12 and higher education employees to include fully funding state salary surveys and indexed COLAs.
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# Stay involved

- Participate in lobbying activities
  - Email / call your legislator – [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov)
    - Encourage colleagues to do the same
  - Send written correspondence
- Keep up with Blog
  - <http://pseclassified.org/category/2018-legislative-session/>