# BILL FOR NEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



# **BACKGROUND**

Bill Farmer has balanced being in the classroom as a high school science teacher while simultaneously serving as a proud union leader for 22 years. As local president he worked in partnership with local ESP leaders to foster greater collaboration to advance bargaining gains for everyone. He organized a massive overhaul to strengthen state legislative priorities and to incorporate new sections to advance racial and social justice as chair of IEA's Legislative Platform Committee. He also served on a broad-based team that designed and passed a more equitable state dues structure based on income. At the national level, Bill was elected to represent his NEA Board colleagues on the NEA Budget Committee and to serve as an NEA delegate to Education International. He is committed to advocacy work to cultivate a better future for both his students and his union siblings.

"To be a free people, to live in a democracy, we have to do something about it." "We have to create a world where everyone can **thrive**, not just **survive**."

-BAYARD RUSTIN

"A great leader will lead by giving others the tools to become leaders themselves."

# **VALUES AND VISION**

The quotes above from Bayard Rustin reflect the guiding principles of Bill Farmer's approach to leadership. Our unions, public schools, and public servants are facing unprecedented and well-coordinated attacks. We are at a transformational inflection point where we need to build strength through solidarity among our diverse members; EPSs, Higher Education, Retired, Aspiring Educators, PreK-12, and Public Service Employees. Bill is a systems thinker who is ready to support our local and state affiliates' strategic efforts to organize for collective power so that we can more effectively adapt and grow to fight for a world where ALL of us can thrive.

NEA is publishing and/or distributing candidate brochures as a service to its members in order to ensure a fully informed electorate. All candidates were provided with an equal opportunity to submit brochures to NEA for distribution. This brochure was prepared by candidate Bill Farmer and solely reflects the views and opinions of the candidate, and not those fo NEA or its affiliates. Bill Farmer is solely responsible for the content.



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## **EXPERIENCE**

### **Local Leadership**

ETHS Teachers' Council Executive Committee (2005-present) Region 41 Vice-Chair (2017-2020) ETHS Teachers' Council President (2009-2013, 2015-2018) ETHS Bargaining Team Chair (2012, 2016, 2017) ETHS Bargaining Team Member (2008, 2021) ETHS Teachers' Council Secretary-Treasurer (2007-2009, 2013-2015)

### **State Leadership**

IEA Board of Directors (2019-present) IEA Budget Committee (2019-present) IEA Illinois Political Action Committee for Education (2021-present) IEA Dues Restructuring Committee (2021-2022) IEA LGBTO+ Committee Chair (2019-2023) IEA Early Career Leadership Fellow Coordinator (2017-2019) IEA Legislative Platform Committee Chair (2014-2019) IEA Leadership Training Institutes Committee (2014-2016) IEA Early Career Educator Committee (2011-2014)

### **National Leadership** NEA Board of Directors (2019-present)

NEA Strategic Plan and Budget Committee (2022-present) NEA Legislative Committee (2019-present) NEA WLT/MLT Planning Committee (2024-present) NEA Education International Delegate (2024) NEA Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Committee Chair (2021-2024) NEA Conference Alignment Committee (2021-2024) NEA Conference on Racial and Social Justice Planning Committee (2021-2024) NEA Transformational Journey for Racial Justice Co-Conspirators (2021-2022) NEA Safe, Just, and Equitable Schools Policy Statement Task Force (2021-2022) NEA Charter School Task Force (2016-2017)

# **LET'S CONNECT**





Farmer4NEA Farmer4NEA@gmail.com



Farmer4NEA www.electbillfarmer.com



