

My name is Rick Jansons, and I'm excited to be running to serve as your WSSDA president-elect! Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope that after reading this, I will have earned your vote.

### **About Me:**

I have been a member of the Richland School Board for 18 years, and have served as president for approximately 10 years. As a WSSDA member, I have served as a member and Chair of the Legislative Committee. I currently serve as the WSSDA vice-president.

I am married, and have five children, ages 13 through 32, and two grandchildren (they're awesome!).

I am a graduate of the Naval Nuclear Power Program, and served in the Submarine Service. I am nationally certified in radiation protection, and graduated from the Emergency Management Program at Western Washington University. I am currently completing a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and Elementary Education from Western Governors' University.

I am very involved in my community and have served as board president, secretary, & education session manager of Leadership Tri-Cities; vice-president of the Richland Public Facilities District; trustee of the Bailie Memorial Youth Foundation; president of Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation Class 29; Hanford Advisory Board vice-president, budget and contracts chair, tank waste chair; and secretary of the Richland Rotary.

I own a construction company, and I consult for the Department of Energy on issues related to nuclear operations.

### **Why I'm Running:**

I am running because I am excited about the many improvements that the WSSDA board and WSSDA staff are making to benefit school directors as we serve our students and communities. I believe that I can contribute to those improvements as part of the WSSDA leadership team.

My goal is to continue working with the WSSDA leadership team to develop the training and resources each of you need to effectively lead, advocate and govern. Every one of our 1,477 members is important, and our association has an obligation to support each of you.

My vision is for WSSDA to continue to grow in influence and strength to benefit our members and the students we serve. I fully support WSSDA's mission, vision, beliefs and goals. The mission statement talks about governance as well as advocacy; both are critical. The vision includes the words "each and every student." We need to continue to strive for each and every student to be successful, not just the "easy ones."

With the completion of the McCleary lawsuit, perhaps even more work is needed to support our schools. I'm concerned about the inequities (salaries, funding per pupil, etc.) that have resulted from McCleary, and these issues need to be resolved. I am concerned about the lack of Special Education Funding. I am lobbying this year for these issues, as well as for improving funding and local options to support school safety and student social and emotional learning. The increasing poverty gap in our society, lack of mental health services, and fiscal uncertainty are impacting our schools. There is a lot of work to be done, and I'm excited to be running for WSSDA president-elect and help get that work done!