



OUR KIDS OUR FUTURE

Families Come Together for Latino Education Summit

More than 300 people came to Shuksan Middle School on May 17 for the Latino Education Summit. The summit was sponsored by the Family Engagement Department for Bellingham Public Schools. The event included a complimentary Mexican meal, followed by a guest speaker, a presentation from district staff and performances from community groups. The entire event was in Spanish with English translation offered.

“We talked for years about putting on a summit like this because we wanted to bring our Latino families together in celebration of our culture and for the opportunity of being able to have the same message for all the families at the same time,” said Isabel Meaker, Special Assistant to the

Superintendent for Family Engagement.

Patricia Loera, a senior program officer for education at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, was the guest speaker. Loera works on grants aimed at increasing the number of minority youth who graduate from high school ready for college. Loera spoke about the importance of education and how to use it to create a better future. Following her presentation, Loera was given a framed copy of The Bellingham Promise, flowers and locally-made tamales.

Representing Bellingham Public Schools, Meaker spoke to parents, encouraging them to demonstrate that school is important by working closely with their schools.

SUMMIT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS 2015

No opposition? You are not alone in Washington, unless you're from the city.

Fewer than a quarter of the school board races in this November's election in Washington state will be contested, based on preliminary filing information gathered by WSSDA.

School board elections in Washington state are held every two years. In each election, about half of the 1,477 seats across the state are up for grabs, plus those seats where the holder has left early and the position needs filling.

This year there are 830 seats up for election and about 185 have more than one candidate. This adds up to a contested rate of 22 percent. Twenty-four, or about three percent, of the races have more than two candidates.

Of the total number of races, incumbents are running unopposed in 541. About 19 percent of the races with incumbents are contested. The competition is much higher where there is no incumbent running. In these races, 35 percent of the seats are contested.

“We will have the chance to see democracy in action in a number of races where there are two, three or even more candidates,” said Alan Burke, WSSDA's executive director. “Several of these are in our more urban areas.”

Not surprisingly, more urban areas with

ELECTIONS, CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



ESEA reform is still not dead for this year, yet!

THERE STILL IS HOPE!

Yes, the presidential campaign season has started, and yes, Congress has lots on its plate. But ESEA reauthorization still is a possibility for this summer—if bills move quickly.

As all of you who have been following the reauthorization saga over the past couple of years know, WSSDA and NSBA have firmly placed a stake in the ground in favor of overturning NCLB—and all of the hoopla, sanctions and nastiness of that law that is now eight years past its shelf life.

So, where are we now with respect to the prospects for reauthorization? On the Senate side, the news is relatively good. The Every Child Achieves Act (ECAA) of 2015—the bipartisan bill that Senators Alexander and Murray worked out this spring—is set for floor debate and (hopefully) a vote by early July. If the bill remains intact through floor action, it will go to a conference committee to work out differences with the House version of reauthorization. That is, if—and at this point it is a big if—the House can get HR 5 unstuck and vetted, debated and voted.

And “stuck” is a good way to describe what is going on in the House on reauthorization. Education and Workforce Committee Chair Rep. John Kline hopes to get HR 5—a bill that passed the House in both 2013 and 2014—moving, but is hemmed in by partisan politics filled with a heavy dose of anti-administration musings from conservative Republicans. Washington insiders are guessing that movement from the Senate on ECAA will spur the House to action, but that is by no means a sure thing.

So, what needs to happen now? The big problem is timing. If bills do not get out of their respective bodies

by the summer recess in early August, the fear is that presidential campaigning will bring just about everything to a halt beginning in September. If that happens, then reauthorization will be back-burnered until after the 2016 election—how much after (2017? 2018? 2023?) is a matter of conjecture.

That is not good—especially in Washington state. Because, in August, district administrators will be preparing “failure” letters to be delivered to parents in any school that receives Title I monies and has not achieved 100% state test passage rates on each of the 45 AYP cells on the NCLB grid. Of our approximately 2,200 public schools, at least 1,400 will be sending out letters, with mostly small schools escaping that duty because of low “n” sizes. Shortly thereafter, business managers will adjust budgets to set aside 20% of Title monies—\$40M statewide—for Supplemental Educational Services (SES) and school choice. Again, this is not good.

In the meantime, you can help by reaching out to your congresswoman or congressman and asking them to help move the reauthorization bills along. WSSDA supports the ECAA in the Senate and the most of HR 5 in the House. Nothing should get in the way of solving this troublesome mess. There are not enough sticking points in the various proposals to see reauthorization again go down in flames.

And wouldn't it be great if we could do a big recycle party in August with all of the silly and misleading failure notices—instead of mailing them to parents? That would be the best way to start off the 2015-16 school year.

“ESEA reauthorization still is a possibility for this summer—if bills move quickly.”



Legislative Assembly 2015

Planning is well underway for the 2015 WSSDA Legislative Assembly September 18th and 19th at the SeaTac Marriott. Registration opened earlier this month and dozens of districts have already signed-up. Please plan to attend in September. We need your district's voice and vote.

Why you should attend

Each spring the Legislative Committee of WSSDA asks school boards to submit ideas in the form of **Proposals** to help develop the association's top legislative priorities for the coming year. District proposals are presented for a vote at the legislative assembly in September. Proposals that "pass" become WSSDA legislative **Positions**. These positions and our **Standing Legislative Positions** are ranked in order of importance by the districts present at the assembly. The resulting ranked list is WSSDA's legislative **agenda** for the coming session. The highest ranked positions and SLPs on the list become WSSDA's

legislative **priorities** for 2016.

Your participation in this process strengthens WSSDA's influence in Olympia. Having more districts represented at the legislative assembly gives us a louder voice in budget and policy discussions.

Special Events and Presentations on Friday

The annual Innovative Schools Tour takes us to TAF in Federal Way this year. TAF will host a bus load of directors for a tour of this innovative K-12 school on Friday morning. The tour is limited to the first 40 people who sign up when they register for the assembly and there is a \$25.00 charge to cover lunch.

The New-to-Assembly Luncheon is back by popular demand. Legislative Committee Chair Tony Ghazel will host this luncheon for newbies and veterans who want a refresher on assembly procedures. The luncheon is also limited to the first 40 people who sign-up, with a \$25.00 charge to cover lunch.

The Pre-Assembly Program on Friday afternoon will feature legislators and state policy makers who will discuss hot topics and enduring educational issues with

2014 Legislative Assembly participants at the Red Lion in Yakima.

directors. The program begins at 1:00 and ends at 5:00.

Friday wraps up with a reception Friday evening. Come for the hearty appetizers, no host bar and socializing with fellow directors and superintendents. The reception begins at 6:00.

The Main Event on Saturday

The assembly begins Saturday morning at 10:00. Director Area caucuses at 8:30 will give directors time to discuss items that will be voted on at the assembly and to talk about procedures ahead of time.

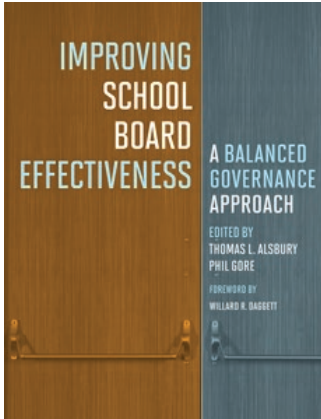
Future Assembly dates and locations

In March, the legislative committee recommended dates and locations for future assemblies. In April the WSSDA Board of Directors concurred and approved the following dates and locations:

<p>2016 SPOKANE Davenport Grand Hotel, September 22 – 24</p>
<p>2017 VANCOUVER hotel and date TBD</p>
<p>2018 SEATTLE Hotel and date TBD</p>

What's on your summer reading list?

Reading keeps you cool.



Gore and Alsbury co-author new book on school boards

Former WSSDA staffer Phil Gore and school board guru Thomas Alsbury of Seattle Pacific University have teamed up to write a new book that at least one education leader has called “a must read.”

Improving School Board Effectiveness: A Balanced Governance Approach is scheduled to be published in September by Harvard Education Press. The book looks at the evolving role of school boards.

“It examines how board members can establish effective district priorities and it explores those board policies and actions that result in shared, districtwide commitments to heightened student achievement,” according to the publisher’s summary.

Gore, who served as WSSDA’s Director of Leadership Services, left the association in late 2013 for a position at the National School Boards Association. He currently works at the Texas Association of School Boards. Alsbury is Professor of Educational leadership at SPU and founder and president of Balanced Governance Solutions.

“*Improving School Board Effectiveness* is a valuable book for superintendents as well as school boards,” Bert L’Homme, Superintendent of Durham Public Schools in North Carolina, wrote in a review on the publisher’s website. “It explores the crucial relationship between school boards and superintendents, indicating ways to build a trusting mutually accountable partnership to advance student achievement.”

The publisher is currently taking online orders. In hardback, the 216-page book is \$60. The paperback edition is half that price.



CHRIS NATION

WSSDA President-Elect

How Schools Around the World Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at a Time

Stephen R. Covey

A follow-up book from the author of “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” and “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens.” Dr. Covey describes how schools around the world are working hard to build the leadership abilities of the students within their walls. They have learned that attending to the needs of the whole child in partnership with the local community leads to higher academic success.

Columbine

Dave Cullen

After the shooting tragedy at one of our local high schools, this book was highly recommended to our board. It is a powerful and emotional recap of the tragedy that occurred at Columbine High School. With insiders sharing stories around that horrific day and the continued emotional nightmares, this book is sure to leave you in tears.



TRICIA LUBACH

WSSDA Training Specialist and Quincy School Board member

All the Light We Cannot See

Anthony Doerr

This remarkable novel juxtaposes the stories of two children - a blind Parisian girl and an orphaned German boy - during WWII. It gives an interesting insight into how young teenagers were forced to become Hitler youth and their subsequent coercion to engage in terrible acts of violence. This one is even better if you listen to it in its audio version... perfect for long summer car trips.



MARI TAYLOR

WSSDA Past President

Wonder

R. J. Palacio

In education research, the “outlier(s)” are often tossed out because they can skew data. But in this book, you realize how important it is to look at the outliers and their stories/ circumstances to see how they have attained success. Gladwell does an excellent job of choosing different types of outliers to illustrate his points.

Giving Kids a Fair Chance

James J. Heckman

In this great little book, Nobel-prize winning economist James Heckman and some very impressive friends provide a concise and compelling explanation of the necessity of instituting and supporting quality early learning programs in the US. An important read for advocates of early learning and for folks who are just wondering what all the fuss is about.



ALAN BURKE

WSSDA Executive Director

Presidents, Congress and the Public Schools: The Politics of Education

Jack Jennings

Those who follow federal education policy will enjoy this new book by Jack Jennings, longtime Washington insider with an extensive background in ed policy work. ESEA, now eight years overdue for reauthorization, is dissected from its roots in the Johnson administration to issues and controversies that are present in 2015. Ideas about the proper role of the federal government in K-12 education are offered, as is a summary of the politics of No Child Left Behind and how that law in many ways caused today’s legislative logjam.



HEIDI MAYNARD

WSSDA Director of Policy and Legal Services

And the Good News Is.... Lessons and Advice from the Bright Side by

Dana Perino

Wit and wisdom from the tough-as-nails and charming former White House Press Secretary.

Until Proven Innocent: Political Correctness and the Shameful Injustices of the Duke Lacrosse Rape Case

K.C. Johnson

This should be required reading of all parents of college-bound children.



COLLEEN MILLER

WSSDA Director of Leadership Development

Excellence Through Equity: Five Principles of Courageous Leadership to Guide Achievement for Every Student

Alen M. Blankenstein and Pedro Noguera

Get a jump on your homework for WSSDA’s Annual Conference in November by reading this thought-provoking book from our keynote speaker, Pedro Noguera. This book provides a new paradigm for education in which all children succeed and “haves” and “have nots” no longer exist. Five principles of courageous leadership are delineated that are essential to Excellence Through Equity. A book that provides hope and the practical steps taken to put this paradigm and principles in place.



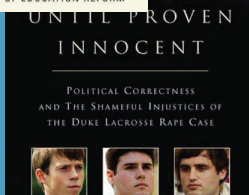
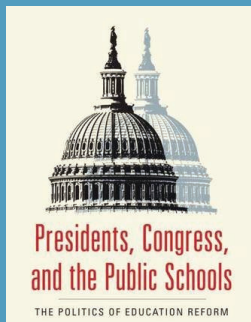
DEB MERLE

WSSDA Director of Government Relations

The Bookman’s Tale

Charlie Lovett

This Shakespearean mystery is an intelligent thriller for book lovers. The central character, an antiquarian book dealer, believes he has found evidence about who really wrote all those plays and sonnets. The story spans centuries and continents, sleuthing into the works of Shakespeare and sliding back to the bard’s time.





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SUMMIT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She encouraged families to strengthen their home language while emphasizing the importance of a strong bilingual skill set. She also spoke about creating a structured time and space for doing schoolwork at home and reminded them that they are their child’s first teacher.

Meaker is developing a districtwide PTA that will have all communications in Spanish. This will allow Spanish-speaking families to be more involved in their student’s school.

“I am honored to be a part of the Bellingham Public Schools. Our staff is setting a precedent in family engagement that is hard to duplicate,” said family liaison Tanya Rojas. “The culture has been created by a collection of humble hearts, service, leadership and love for every single child in our schools.”

Rojas said she can only imagine the possibilities for years to come and she gave special recognition to Meaker for the success of the event.

“The turnout we experienced is a testimony to Isabel’s years of service and the sense of family that she has nourished in our schools,” said Rojas. “She is one of a kind!”

The above article was provided by the Department of Communications and Community Relations, Bellingham Public Schools.



This story and many more can be found at www.ourkidswa.org. Be part of Our Kids, Our Future's first anniversary. Send stories of your school district's successes to M.Wilson@wssda.org.

ELECTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

larger school districts tend to have more competition in school board elections. Nationally, according to Ballotpedia, 36% of incumbents ran opposed in the nation’s largest 1,000 school districts in 2014. Overall, 81 percent of incumbents were reelected. About 71 percent of those with challengers were reelected.

Stiff competition in urban areas is reflected this year in Washington state. In Seattle, where four seats are on the ballot and only one incumbent is running, there are 11 candidates. In Tacoma, there are two seats open and eight candidates.

Five candidates have filed in Spokane with two seats open. In Yakima, four incumbents will run unopposed. Three seats are up in Vancouver this year. Bucking the trend, two incumbents will face opposition, with a lone candidate for the one open seat.

2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A Sample of Early Bird Workshops

The call for proposals for WSSDA Annual Conference break-out sessions closed last month with a record number of submissions.

WSSDA's planning committee will select the very best of more than 90 breakout proposals to create the agenda, which will be available for member review in September.

If your board is making the decision this summer on whether to attend, this year's theme of Boundless Potential is already getting traction. Many sessions will focus on equity.

Plans are underway for several sessions for and about student representatives to the board. Four Early Bird workshops are scheduled to elevate the skills and knowledge of both new and veteran board directors. And keynote messages will address potential in thought-provoking ways.

Registrations are already at an all-time high for this time of the year, with more than 550 compared to a normal count of around 300. Learn more at wssda.org/conference and register soon.



Workshops scheduled for school board candidates

The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) will hold a series of 14 free workshops throughout Washington in July to help local school board candidates learn more about serving on a board.

The workshops will cover a variety of topics, including:

- An explanation of the roles and responsibilities of a school director.
- The legal and ethical aspects of board work.
- An introduction to school director standards.
- Opportunities to explore real examples of school board work and how to respond in similar situations.

"We want to help participants not

only be more informed candidates, but also be better prepared to take office," said Colleen Miller, WSSDA's Director of Leadership Development.

Each workshop will last two hours. They are scheduled to run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Current board members are also invited to share their wisdom and experience with candidates.

[Online registration](#) is recommended to reserve a space.

If you have questions about the workshops, please contact Colleen Miller at c.miller@wssda.org, 360-252-3006, or Tricia Lubach at t.lubach@wssda.org, 509-760-0321. More information for candidates is available [online](#).

Western Washington	Eastern Washington
Tuesday, July 7 WSSDA, Conference Center 221 College St. Olympia, WA 98516	Monday, July 6 Mary Walker School District, Board Room 500 North 4th Springdale, WA 99173
Wednesday, July 8 Northshore School District, Board Room 3330 Monte Villa Parkway Bothell, WA 98021-8972	Tuesday, July 7 Cheney Middle School, Library 740 Betz Rd. (turn right at 1st stoplight if coming from Spokane) Cheney, WA 99004
Thursday, July 9 Burlington-Edison School District Curriculum Room 927 East Fairhaven Ave. Burlington, WA 98233	Thursday, July 9 Pasco School District, Board Room 1215 W. Lewis Street Pasco, WA 99301-7104
Tuesday, July 14 Longview School District, Board Room 2715 Lilac St. Longview, WA 98632	Tuesday, July 14 Union Gap School District, Library (to left as you enter the building) 3201 4th Street Union Gap, WA 98903
Wednesday, July 15 Aberdeen High School, Community Room 410 N G St Aberdeen, WA 98520	Tuesday, July 21 Omak School District, Board Room 619 West Bartlett Avenue Omak, WA 98841-0833
Wednesday, July 29 North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center, Room 207 905 West 9th Street Port Angeles, WA 98363	Wednesday, July 22 Cashmere School District, Board Room 210 South Division Cashmere, WA
	Thursday, July 23 Ellensburg High School, Conference Room 1203 E Capitol Ave Ellensburg, WA 98926
	Wednesday, July 29 Ephrata School District, Board Room 499 C Street NW Ephrata, WA 98823



WSSDA Direct is published monthly by the Washington State School Directors' Association to provide information of interest to school directors and the education community. The views expressed in opinion articles appearing in WSSDA Direct are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent WSSDA policies or positions. If you have a disability and need this publication in an alternate format, please contact the WSSDA Communications Department.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 2 Executive Committee Meeting
- 13 Annual Conference Meeting
- 16 Executive Committee Meeting
- 17 Legislative Committee Meeting
- 18 Legislative Committee Meeting
- 18 Nominating Committee Meeting
- 24 - 25 Board of Directors' Meeting
- 30 Executive Committee Meeting

August

- 13 Executive Committee Meeting
- 27 Executive Committee Meeting
- 31 Balloting opens for WSSDA officer elections
- 30 Executive Committee Meeting

September

- 18-19 Legislative Assembly
- 17 3rd Meeting of the Resolutions Committee
- 17 Board of Directors' Meeting
- 23 Vancouver Regional Meeting
- 29 Edmonds Regional Meeting
- 30 Issaquah Regional Meeting