



Direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

JUNE/JULY 2014

2014 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Annual event locks in positions and priorities

WSSDA's annual Legislative Assembly will take place at the Yakima Red Lion, September 19–20. Online registration opens June 16 and a detailed event agenda will be available on our website soon.

About the assembly

Each year, WSSDA's Legislative Committee solicits input from all Washington school boards on issues affecting public education. The committee meets twice during the summer to analyze proposals and generate ideas and proposals of its own. The Legislative Assembly acts on these proposals and creates a comprehensive legislative agenda, subject to final approval by the WSSDA Board of Directors.

Who should attend?

All school directors are encouraged to attend the Legislative Assembly. District staff are also invited to attend, although only school directors may address the assembly and only one director per district may vote on each issue. While legislative representatives from each district normally serve as delegates to the assembly, voting credentials may be shared among attending directors at each board's discretion.

Assembly events

Registration to the Legislative Assembly includes an evening program and reception on Friday and assembly events on Saturday. New this year, Caucus Meetings will be held

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Student artist, Elizabeth Evans was presented with a certificate from State Superintendent Randy Dorn and WSSDA's Director of Communications, Michael Wilson. Evans's winning piece, "The Journey" is a ceramic vase with over 13 different glazes.

Kelso High School student wins WSSDA's choice award

Fifteen young artists and their teachers from across the state were honored in May as state winners in the 41st Annual Superintendent's High School Art Show.

A ceremony was hosted by State Superintendent Randy Dorn to celebrate the high school artists whose work was selected for the statewide competition.

The winner of the Washington State School Directors' Association Award was chosen by WSSDA staff. Elizabeth Evans of Kelso High School was the artist of "The Journey," an exquisite ceramic vase. Evans and her teacher, Charemon Smith,

were present to receive the award from WSSDA's Director of Communications, Michael Wilson.

WSSDA along with OSPI, State Board of Education, Professional Educators Standards Board, Washington Association of School Administrators, ArtsEd Washington, Association of Washington School Principals, and Washington Art Education Association, purchased the award winning art for \$200 each.

In February, regional high school art shows were held in each of the nine

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Students flourish with artist in residence program

According to Picasso, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” Gause Elementary students have enjoyed the chance to explore their creative side thanks to the school’s highly successful Artist in Residence program which invites practicing artists to teach their art form.

“The goal of our program is to allow students a unique artistic experience each year,” said Carly Hack, Artist in Residence coordinator. “We want the experience to be enriching, age appropriate and to allow them to explore and expand their own creativity and artistic intelligence. It is an opportunity for the students to be engaged in a different way of thinking, where there isn’t a right or wrong answer, while being exposed to a variety of art forms and techniques.”

Each class level learns about a different medium using a variety of local artists. This school year kindergarten classes created clay tiles with a garden theme with Karie Oakes. The first grade students explored drawing techniques and strategies with Elida Field. Field also worked with second graders on a mixed media collage. Maranee Sanders helped third grade students create Native American inspired masks which they used to act out a play. The fourth grade students worked with fused glass art under the guidance of Lisa Wilke. Oakes also worked with fifth graders on clay self-portrait tiles.

“The fifth grade classes learned hand building methods to make their self-portrait relief tile,” Oakes explained. “They used clay to model their faces and glaze to color them. They learn the various face shapes, positioning of facial features and proportion and drafted sketches. It is amazing how well they transcribed the two dimensional sketch to the more three dimensional form of relief.”

Students were challenged to capture their essence of self in the tile. They each practiced public speaking by presenting their work to their classmates. Class members then offered meaningful observations of the student’s work as well as compliments on specific elements.



Gause Elementary fifth graders created self-portrait tiles with local artist Karie Oakes.

“It’s rewarding to see a student’s skills, confidence and pride grow,” Oakes said. “Teaching also informs by practice as an artist and teacher. I am constantly surprised by what I learn from my students.”

Oakes has been an Artist in Residence at Gause for nine years and believes that people were made to be creative in some way, each day. “Creativity has no bounds, extending into all that we do,” she said. “Creative thinkers observe, inquire, interpret and express themselves. Creativity is what engages us and connects us as community.”

Each Fall the Gause Boosters hold a very successful Sport-a-thon which provides 100 percent of the funding for this program. Costs include artist time and materials. Oakes applauds the Gause Boosters for valuing the importance of art in the schools. “In my experience, it is one of the premier programs in southwest Washington and the Portland metro area,” she said. “And the Booster support extends into the classroom, where I would not be able to do what I do without the great help of parent volunteers.”

Hack began volunteering for the Artist in Residence program three years ago. As program coordinator, she works to find just the right artists that can communicate their art with children. “The most important trait of a guest artist is how well they

can relate to and connect with kids,” she explained. “There are some amazing artists out there but if they cannot teach elementary students it won’t work.”

Hack, a former teacher from the Bay Area, also works with teachers on scheduling and helping to choose the appropriate project and medium and finds parent volunteers to be in the classroom to assist the artists.

“Through this program students are getting opportunities to explore art that they would not have otherwise gotten,” she said. “It is a chance to put their right side of their brain to work. It gives them a chance to be creative and express themselves. This type of experience is critical in a child’s development.

“I feel very passionate about this program and getting art into the hands of youth,” Hack added. “I didn’t know how much it would mean to me until I got started and could see results.”

Gause Elementary is part of the Washougal School District.



This story and many more can be found at www.ourkidswa.org. Send stories of your school district’s successes to M.Wilson@wssda.org. There are currently over 50 districts represented. Is yours included?

on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. and the Legislative Assembly begins at 10:00 a.m. Other events included in registration include an innovative schools tour Friday morning immediately followed by a New to Assembly Luncheon for those that are new board members or haven't attended Legislative Assembly for a number of years.

Registration

Registration is available online through our website, www.wssda.org, on June 16. To receive the special rate of \$195, register by September 5. After September 5, the registration rate is \$220.

Cancellations

There is a \$100 charge for cancellations received after September 5. No-shows are not eligible to receive a refund.

Hotel accommodations

To reserve your hotel room(s), call the Yakima Red Lion at 509-248-5900 or 800-RED-LION before September 4 to get the \$83 single room or the \$103 double room rate. Ask for the group name, Washington State School Directors' Association.

It's time for a board tune-up

Do you give your car oil changes or do you wait for the engine to fail? Preventive maintenance is a good idea — both with cars and with school boards.

WSSDA offers in-district workshops to help keep your board-superintendent team running well and continuing to improve. You set the date and topic.

A variety of content modules have been established and proven effective, including: board-superintendent roles, setting board operating protocols, goal-setting, evaluation and assessment, data monitoring.

When you request a workshop, you will work with the Director of Leadership Development Services, Colleen Miller, or one of WSSDA's cadre of professional trainers — many of whom are current or past board members — to customize the workshop length and content to your district's needs.

Once districts begin working with WSSDA in this way, they often come back. Our most common response to an individualized workshop is "This was great! Thank you!"

After one workshop, Grand Coulee Dam Board Member said, "This is the first WSSDA consultant we've used. It was really great to have a facilitator who knows what it's like to be on a school board."

For more information or to request an in-district workshop, please contact Colleen at C.Miller@wssda.org or 360.252.3006.



PRESIDENT
Mari Taylor

Take time to celebrate

The excitement is palpable this time of year. It's not only the sunshine and impending summer break that has our schools buzzing right now. Walk into any school at the end of the year and you feel it; the sweet rush of crossing the finish line — with a class of feisty fourth-graders, an extraordinary or specifically challenged student, or an entire graduating class. June is the finale of a race well run.

Throughout the year we look forward to the culmination of our work. We strive to support each other and our students to get through the Fall, compensating for summer loss and the challenges that each new year brings. We endeavor to equip them with the skills and tenacity that they need to persevere through the long winter, set them up for success as best we can through the marathon of standardized testing and college applications, drag them (and often each other!) to one final burst of strength to get through the Spring. And finally we celebrate the culmination of that effort at the end of the year with award presentations, promotion ceremonies, and of course graduations.

Now is the time to celebrate a multitude of accomplishments; some are grand and easily observable — like the awarding of diplomas to thousands of students launching into adulthood. But most will be measured in much smaller increments; helping a kindergartner get through a rough day, redesigning an algebra lesson for struggling learners, inspiring colleagues, and even building policy.

Now is the time to celebrate our successes — no matter how small. Our commitment to a quality, free public education for all children is reaffirmed every day. Every day we make a choice again to continue this important work wherever we are, whatever the challenge. Recognizing and celebrating each of our accomplishments is essential to that commitment.

I recently had occasion to be reminded of the significance of every moment — continuously for about two weeks. There isn't any room for complacency in the ICU, only reflection, inspiration and celebration. This experience served to remind me that even the smallest increments of success have enormous value because it is the culmination of each of those moments that bring us to our goals.

Graduations don't happen in one night, or one year, or even four years. Graduations are the culmination of countless commitments, over 18 years, by thousands of people who dream of each child's success. Each of these moments is worthy of celebration. Each of these moments has brought us to our goal.

Take this time to celebrate.

What's on your summer reading list?

Reading keeps you cool.

MARI TAYLOR

Lake Stevens School District
WSSDA President



My list is in response to a challenge from my children, "For crying out loud Mom, find some fiction and read it!" I sort of listened...

Raising Cubby

John Elder Robinson

This is a great follow-up to Robinson's first book, *Look me in the Eye*. Both Robinson and his son Cubby have Asperger's syndrome which makes for an interesting component, but each story is both entertaining and inspiring.

All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes

Maya Angelou

Possibly my favorite of Dr. Angelou's books, if I could claim a favorite. Maybe I'll read them all again because I miss her.

The Book Thief

Markus Zusak

This is a great read about a young girl living with a foster family in Nazi Germany during WWII. Despite the topic, this story is both engaging and inspiring. The author's beautiful and compelling imagery will stick with me for a long time.

And lastly, in the spirit of the season:

If This Isn't Nice What Is? Advice to the Young

Kurt Vonnegut

This is a collection of graduation speeches delivered by Vonnegut throughout several decades. True to form, each of these speeches is witty, kind, powerful and funny. More than a few copies of this book are going out as graduation gifts.



CHRIS NATION

Marysville School District
WSSDA Vice President

Learning from Lincoln "Leadership Practices for School Success"

Harvey Alvy

This book shows how Lincoln's leadership style can assist districts and schools in focusing on and improving student success.

A School Board Guide to Leading Successful Schools.

Stephanie Hirsh and Anne Foster

An in-depth "bible" on how successful boards unite with the purpose of improving student academics and creating a culture of success within their districts and schools.

The Racketeer

John Grisham

It is John Grisham. Need I say more? Never a dull moment. Great for that down time sitting in the hammock with the ice tea.

Tulalip from my Heart

Harriette Shelton Dover

This is a true story about growing up on a tribal reservation, from boarding schools, culture changes, and how years of government control removed the history and traditions of the native people of Tulalip Reservation.



MARY FERTAKIS

Tukwila School
Board District,
WSSDA Past President

Outliers: The Story of Success

Malcolm Gladwell

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.

Class Warfare: Inside the Fight to Fix America's Schools

Steven Brill

If you want to gain an understanding of the ed reform movement and the efforts to privatize public education, this is a must read. Brill does an excellent job of chronicling the history of this movement and it will put in context the types of legislation we are seeing come up in Washington state and around the country.

I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban

*Malala Yousafzai
with Christina Lamb*

The title says it all. An excellent book for gaining understanding of why access to education is so important, especially for girls around the world. You will be inspired by her story.



RICK MALONEY

University Place
School District,
WSSDA Board of Directors

Mindset: The New Psychology of Success

Carol Dweck

A growth mindset is based on a belief that intelligence is not fixed, but can be developed through effort. It is more strongly correlated with success than is a fixed mindset.

The Imperfect Board Member: Discover the Seven Disciplines of Governance Excellence

Jim Brown

Provides seven principles of board governance in an easily read book, illustrated by vignettes of situations that boards will find familiar.



MICHAEL WILSON

WSSDA's Director of
Communications

The Smartest Kids in the World

Amanda Ripley

How could one not want to read a book that explores the lives of three American kids who embed themselves for a year in countries with a reputation for having some of the world's best schools? In this case, it's Finland, South Korea and Poland.

India: A Million Mutinies Now

V.S. Naipal

It's time to take a break from the Hornblower series and read about a country I know almost nothing about. Amazon describes it as “Nobel laureate V. S. Naipaul's impassioned and prescient travelogue of his journeys through his ancestral homeland.” As of page 50 (10%), that seems to be about right.



PATTY WOOD

Kelso School District,
WSSDA Board of Directors

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern

Stephen Greenblatt

Story of how a monk back in 1417 uncovered a copy of Lucretius's *On the Nature of Things* in a German monastery and how the discovery of this poem would change the world to swerve in a new direction.



MEGAN SIMMONS

WSSDA's Policy Assistant

How Successful People Think

John C. Maxwell

I just purchased this Wall Street Journal best seller and am looking forward to reading it as soon as it arrives. The Amazon description says “Gather successful people from all walks of life-what would they have in common? The way they think! Now you can think as they do and revolutionize your work and life!”

OPEN GOVERNMENT TRAININGS

Flexible options for board trainings

Online or video training

By taking the training online as a scheduled board work session, school directors can have a quorum without violating OPMA, and discuss the content in regard to their local jurisdiction. The agenda includes Open Government Training for Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Disclosure and Records Retention.

Remember to record the minutes or notes for this work session – including the agenda items from the training, and include a roll call. This establishes a record of participation for your board. Additional forms to document completion of the training are provided on the Attorney General website listed below and the WSSDA website.

These include a certificate of participation, which the board's secretary could complete for each school director, and a roster to further document that each board member has completed the training. It is a best practice to have board directors sign in for training and sign-out when the training is completed.

In-person training

If a quorum of your board is in attendance at in-person training, issues or topics of your jurisdiction cannot be discussed as a board or referenced when asking a question of the speakers. If you attend an in-person training, you will sign in when you arrive, establishing a record of completion. Some sites may provide certificates of completion following the training.

Current in-person training opportunities

The following 90-minute trainings meet the requirements of the legislation.

Open and Transparent Government Best Practices

Offered by the Washington State Auditor

June 16	Wenatchee
June 18	Spokane
July 9	Everett
July 10	Tacoma
September 17	Yakima
September 18	Tri-Cities

Visit our website, www.wssda.org/resources/opmapratraining for more information about times and locations.

Open Government Training at the WSSDA Annual Conference

November 21	Spokane
	10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
	Presenters: Nancy Krier, Assistant Attorney General for Open Government, Washington State Attorney General's Office; Scott Sackett, Electronic Records Management Consultant, Eastern Washington

Resources

Washington State Archives

<http://www.wssda.org/Events/AnnualConference/Registration.aspx>

General Information

Washington State Attorney General's Office Open Government Training
<http://www.atg.wa.gov/OpenGovernmentTraining.aspx#.U4yoCvldWAg>

Municipal Research and Services Center

<http://insight.mrsc.org/2014/04/16/explaining-the-open-government-training-act/>

New training requirements for school directors

Starting July 1, 2014, all school directors must complete training on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), Public Records Act (PRA) and records retention. The training must be completed within 90 days of taking the oath of office following appointment or election. The law (ESB 5964) covers certain other officials, as well as school board members.

WSSDA has created a webpage to provide information on this law and scheduled training sessions. This information and more is available at: wssda.org/Resources/OPMAPRATraining. (See sidebar for additional details).

In-person training sessions are being scheduled in various parts of the state. These sessions generally last about 90 minutes and cover all of the necessary training under the law. Generally, participants will also be given certificates showing they attended the training. The first of these sessions was scheduled for June 4 in Olympia. WSSDA will hold qualifying training sessions during its Annual Conference in November.

The Washington Attorney General's Office has also made online training available.

A frequently asked questions document from the state Attorney General's Office provides basic answers on who must take the training, how often it must be taken, how the training can be documented and what qualifies as training. It also provides some basic background on why the law was passed.

This new requirement comes as a result of passage of ESB 5964, a law approved in the 2014 legislative session. It applies to certain other public officials in addition to school directors.

The Attorney General's Office recommends that school directors document the training. They should also take refresher training every four years that they hold office.

Incumbent school directors should complete the training as soon as possible this year.

Directors should note that the Washington Supreme Court stated in 2010 that it will consider PRA training in assessing penalties for public records violations.

For more information, contact Colleen Miller at WSSDA.



South Kitsap School Board was recognized as a 2013 Board of the Year. They also received special commendation for earning a Boards of Distinction Award for five years in a row.

Annual Boards of Distinction program keeps boards focused

The 2014 board recognition program is now accepting applications. WSSDA encourages all boards to apply.

Board of the Year and Board of Distinction recognition validates the quality of your board's work and helps get the word out to the broader community.

This is a great chance to get more boards "on board" and for school directors to shine. Participation in the Boards of Distinction program allows the community to recognize that their board is doing good work for the kids of their district.

The Washington School Board Standards reflect best practices in board work. You will review and document how your board's actions align with these measures. This will help your board identify successes and communicate a commitment to continuous improvement and accountability.

Last year, WSSDA recognized South Kitsap and Sunnyside as Boards of the Year. Another 15 boards received recognition as Boards of Distinction, including three who received a special commendation for earning a Board of Distinction status for five years running.

"We have found that our participation in this program keeps us focused on our primary mission and vision," said one past honoree. "It also provides a great opportunity for refresher training for veteran board members and educational training for newly appointed members."

Visit our website www.wssda.org, and click on the Services tab and then Leadership Development, Boards of Distinction Awards for complete details and the application form. Applications are due September 17.



TIP: Get an early start to this year's application by discussing it at your next board retreat.

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Educational Service Districts (ESDs) across the state. The winning pieces from each regional show were forwarded to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), where they competed to be a state winner.

"If we are dedicated to preparing all students, we must be sure that all schools have access to a well-rounded arts program," Dorn said of arts education. "We want every student engaged. As the state superintendent, I urge all school districts to ensure that all students have access to the highest quality opportunities in arts education."

For a full list of winners, visit www.k12.wa.us/arts/artshow/artshow14/winners.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 20, 21** Board of Directors Meeting
- 20, 21** Legislative Committee Meeting
- 27-29** NSBA Pacific Region Summer Institute

July

- 16** Webinar
- 18, 19** Legislative Committee Meeting
- 31** Webinar for New Board Members

August

- 13** Webinar
- 22-23** Board of Directors Meeting

September

- 17** Webinar
- 18** Board of Directors Meeting
- 18** Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 18** Legislative Committee Meeting
- 19-20** Legislative Assembly
- 25** Webinar for New Board Members

October

- 25** Legislative Committee Meeting

November

- 18** Board of Directors Meeting
- 19** Resolutions Committee Meeting
- 19-22** Annual Conference
- 22** Board of Directors Meeting

December

- 17** Webinar

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!