



direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

ELECTION ISSUE 2017

Annual Conference

As summer progresses into fall, WSSDA is finalizing details on more than 70 breakout sessions that will be part of the 2017 WSSDA Annual Conference in November. This includes breakout sessions from each of this year's keynote speakers – Linda Darling-Hammond, Jamie Vollmer and Craig Boykin. If you haven't made plans to attend yet, here are important dates to keep you on track:

- **Early September:** Draft session times and descriptions will be posted
- **September 22:** Final day for early registration discounts
- **October 17:** Final day for special group rates for lodging
- **November 16-19** (Thurs.-Sun.): Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Bellevue

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CONT'D ON PAGE 3



Elections 2017

who's running, open positions, candidate bios

SEE PAGE 9



PHOTO: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

What we learn when we listen to students

by Lori Oviatt, School Director, Riverview School District
Originally appeared at Crosscut.com

Now is the time to listen to our students. Student voice is and has always been a powerful tool in leading educational change and leadership. Look what the power of student voices accomplished recently at Pittsburg High School in Kansas – student journalists questioned their new principal's credentials, which led to her resignation.

Every school district needs an avenue to listen to the student voice. At Riverview School District, a medium-sized district comprised of Duvall and Carnation that sits at the base of the Cascade Mountains, student voice is top of mind. Our vision statement – I'm a school board member – reflects this: Educate Children.

Riverview has two student representatives: a senior and a junior who attend all school board meetings as well as the Washington State

School Directors Association's (WSSDA) annual conference and legislative conference. Our students speak on behalf of their constituents – the 3,100 students they represent in the Riverview School District. Our student representatives meet with legislators, the governor and other boards of directors. They give presentations at conferences and provide leadership to student representatives throughout the state. In addition to these voices, the district hosts a series of opportunities to reach and hear our students, such as student round tables, monthly presentations at board meetings, and support for leadership opportunities in our clubs and activities.

At recent student roundtables, we heard from students of all backgrounds regarding our district

LISTEN, CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tim Garchow



Bringing amazing teamwork to school

Beginning the school year is a celebration every time. It signals a new start for children and adults alike. Our children come with their school supplies, excited at the prospect of meeting their teachers, finding new friends, and making new discoveries. Among adults, our parents are facing some familiar feelings, but also some new ones as they start to learn what this next step in their child's education entails. And for their part, school board directors begin holding board retreats to organize the work ahead and set goals for improved governance. In short, the beginning of school is a time of opportunity for young and old alike.

WSSDA staff have facilitated many work sessions to help school boards increase their effectiveness. We've noticed that more school boards, in partnership with their superintendent, have set goals to improve their coherence as a team. Since school directors only have authority as a team, it is critical that they be able to function together effectively. The degree to which a board succeeds at that can influence student achievement.

In early August, I was invited to join Kathryn Hobbs, Executive Director of the Washington State Parent Teacher Association, on the USS Anchorage. This was part of the US Navy's Shiprider program. As a nautical person to my core, I was pretty excited boarding this powerful ship. When we were underway, I was surprised that it wasn't the ship that grabbed my attention as much as the teamwork demonstrated by the crew. They were truly incredible. Working as a well-oiled machine, they made their work look almost easy, and they inspired confidence that the ship was in good hands. I could only imagine the amount of training, practice and diligence that produced the quality of their teamwork.

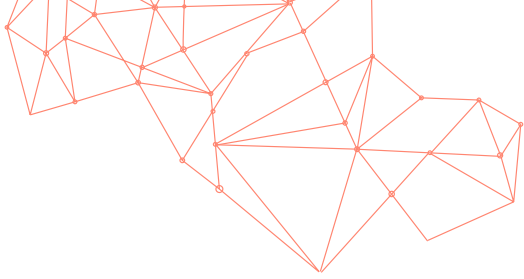
Training, practice, diligence — this reminded me how important it is that our respective organizations do the same. We must model, support and conduct professional development to achieve great teamwork. Sean Hughes, a Public Affairs Officer for the Navy Region Northwest, explained how the crew reached this level of excellence. They begin with being very clear about their primary focus and the mission of the ship. He explained that when this clarity and commitment to the mission is realized only then does the crew become interdependent. They need one another fulfilling their respective roles and responsibilities in order to become a high-functioning, successful team.

This rings true for school directors and superintendents. Members of the USS Anchorage crew have different responsibilities, but are dependent upon one another for their collective success. While the board's role and responsibilities differ from the superintendent's, both depend on one another in order to excel as a governing team.

As we begin this school year, let's become crystal clear about our shared vision, mission and primary focus. Like the crew of the Anchorage, make sure your board has laid that foundation so that the rest of your training and development will lead you to become a highly effective team. And, if you would like us to lend a hand, WSSDA can offer in-district workshops, dues-based services or even just a conversation about reaching your goals this year. Welcome back to school!



From the deck of the USS Anchorage



PRESIDENT
Joanne Greer

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CONT'D FROM P.1

New Board Members

This is a school board election year, which means we'll have many new school directors at the conference. If you have a newly elected or appointed board member, we highly recommend bringing them to the annual conference so they can get off to a strong start. The New Board Boot Camp offers a day-long orientation and mandatory open government training. It also connects them with their fellow first-timers. A New Director strand of breakout sessions offered by WSSDA staff will also be offered to jump-start their learning.

Wondering how you can bring a newly-elected board member to the conference when they are not yet installed? The answer is simple: just have the board pass a resolution allowing it! A [sample resolution](#) is available from WSSDA.

Advanced Leadership Track

For board members with more experience, WSSDA will offer an Advanced Leadership track. Sessions on educational trends or new legislation are also highly recommended. There have been many changes in education at both the federal and state levels this year, so keeping up with what's new and effective in education is an important part of board work.

Mandatory Open Governance Training

In 2014, legislation passed that affects both new and experienced board members. The Open Government Trainings Act (ESB 5964) requires new board members to complete training within 90 days of taking the oath of office. The training must be completed again at intervals of no more than four years "as long as the individual is a member of a governing body or agency."

WSSDA offers this training following the New Board Boot Camp at the Annual Conference. This free 3:30-5 p.m. session is open to anyone who needs it, but please sign up through the conference registration process before November 1. Open Government Training may also be taken [online or in person through the Office of the Attorney General](#).

Back to school: A time to inspire our students and each other

What a journey, and the school year has barely begun! I say that looking backward and looking forward. Over my shoulder, I see not one, not two, but three special legislative sessions! In front of me, I see the faces of 1.1 million reasons why that hard work was necessary, as is the continued hard work to clearly determine just how far the State has (or has not) come in fulfilling its paramount duty. As the child grown weary of a summer road trip asks, "are we there yet?"

One destination we've clearly reached is the start of school. While every point of the year, including the beginning, may have its challenges, nothing beats that promise of a new beginning.

As I envision our state's 1.1 million students returning to class, I feel humbled and heartened to think of all the school and district administrators, teachers, facility, transportation, health and food service staff, plus my fellow school directors all sharing one, singular focus: to provide every student access to high-quality education and the supports necessary to make the most of that access.

Despite the trials and tribulations of life, funding and political disagreements, we persist in our focus on bringing benefits to students. This collective energy is awe-inspiring. Whenever I tire of challenges faced in my personal domain, I draw strength from the whole of us.

Looking ahead, WSSDA's annual Legislative Assembly is imminent. Many of you have attended in the past, but if that's not you, please join us in setting our legislative priorities for 2018.

On the heels of Legislative Assembly is another annual mainstay of

the WSSDA calendar (and yours too I hope): [Annual Conference](#). We'll be inspired by nationally acclaimed keynote speakers, enriched by over 70 breakout sessions and, best of all, have a chance to connect with each other to commiserate, celebrate or even consernate, as the situation requires.

In all seriousness though, our work is vital, and so is our engagement with WSSDA. As Jessica Vavrus notes in her legislative summary (see page 6), "progress was made on some of WSSDA's top legislative priorities." That only happens if we stay engaged locally AND combine our influence through WSSDA. As I said above, our collective energy is awe-inspiring.

So, I look forward to seeing new and returning faces at our big annual events this fall. Bring a colleague who's never been; share your pride on social media with one of our ["I'm registered" badges](#); invite your local legislator to register and attend, or better yet, invite them to school to see firsthand your successes and challenges. Though our opinions and favorite solutions are many, our focus is one.



FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS 2017

Register now

Invite your whole board to attend the fall regional meetings and participate together in this great learning opportunity.

WSSDA.ORG/REGIONALMEETINGS



Oct. 2 Kennewick
DIRECTOR AREA 11

Oct. 3 Cascade
DIRECTOR AREA 7

Oct. 4 Thorp
DIRECTOR AREA 8

Oct. 5 Ritzville
DIRECTOR AREA 10

Oct. 12 Colville
DIRECTOR AREA 9

Oct. 14 Port Angeles
DIRECTOR AREA 4

Oct. 16 Wahkiakum
DIRECTOR AREA 6

Oct. 17 Orting
DIRECTOR AREA 3

Oct. 19 Renton
DIRECTOR AREA 2

Oct. 26 North Thurston
DIRECTOR AREA 5

Nov. 2 Mount Baker
DIRECTOR AREA 1

LISTEN CONTINUED FROM PG.1

practices and policies. Students were selected by our counselors to participate in these roundtables, as we wanted a diverse background of students. We learned that students with English as a second language needed more support at the senior high level.

One student shared a story about a student who recently moved to the district and spoke very little English. He felt it would have been helpful for this student to have additional support from an interpreter. We learned that students come to school hungry and they are embarrassed to let adults know even though the school provides breakfast. We learned that our curriculum is not meeting the needs of all students. Some curriculum requires access to the internet, which some students do not have at home.

We learned all this simply by providing an invitation to the students to speak, openly and honestly with us, in a safe environment. For many of the board members, this was eye-opening as we were not aware of some of these issues in our district. We appreciated that the students were open and honest with us as this allowed us to look at how our policies and procedures affect these students.

We also heard some reassuring news during the roundtables and were happy to learn that our teachers treat our GBLTQ population with respect. I imagine that many board members think they know all of the challenges that students face; however, they might be surprised at what the challenges really are when they ask students directly.

We also learned about how students view equality and ethnicity – they see everyone as

equal, yet we learned that some of our curriculum practices do not allow opportunities to every student. For example, our students are required to volunteer for specific curriculum programs. We heard from two students about the challenges they face with this requirement: they have no method of transportation and they are unable to meet all the nonprofits' volunteer stipulations, which are stricter than in the past.

For a recent school board meeting, the members found themselves in a 5th grade classroom sitting on exercise balls, stools, wobbly chairs and cushions. We also played with fidget toys, adhering to the strict rules of the teacher stating that if she sees the item, then she collects the item. Rule No. 1 is to use one hand on the fidget toy and keep it below the desk. A group of students from the class shared with us how they use these tools to learn. They explained the neuroscience behind the concept (research shows it helps students think) and that sitting on the exercise ball was the preferred seating arrangement for students based on a scientific study they conducted with their school mates. This all happened because the teacher listened to the students' needs.

We need to listen to what our students have to say about living life in this century. Students today are more diverse than when I grew up, technology is different, and our school systems need to be different to meet their needs. By listening to our students, we become the learners who need to change policies, procedures and legislation to meet the needs of these diverse students. What can community members, politicians and school leaders learn from a student today? Now is the time to listen to every student.

Host a Reading Corps member

The Washington Reading Corps needs 71 elementary schools, early learning centers and community organizations to host a Reading Corps member for the coming school year. So far 184 schools and centers statewide have signed up to host members; 71 more are needed!

Reading Corps members tutor struggling students, work with teachers on literacy projects and plan literacy events for parents and students.

The application deadline is Oct. 1. Find out more about the program at washingtontoreadingcorps.org/wrc-program.

For more information contact Kendra DeBow at kdebow@esd.wa.gov.



DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT: EVERETT



Jackson High’s rain garden helping solve storm water pollution

This Snohomish Conservation District project is the first of its kind at Jackson High School. It’s designed to open the door for future classes to carry further down the path of storm water pollution solutions and environmental improvement for our community.

They are in the process of earning their Washington Green School certification by completing their first Washington Green Schools environmental project. As a class, they have planted all the flowers and plants to install the Rain Garden.

“The process of installing the Jackson rain garden was a learning process for us all,” shared Gail Walters, environmental systems design class teacher and rain garden advisor.

“From the research we did as a class, to the presentations, to going back to research again, it was a path that inspired us to actually make a difference at our school.”



This story and many more can be found at www.ourkidswa.org. Send stories of your school district’s successes to s.duke@wssda.org.

LEADERSHIP WSSDA

Boards of Distinction: shorter, more relevant

In an ongoing effort to make the Boards of Distinction program relevant and doable for members, WSSDA staff and past participants and judges met to discuss revisions. It will take time to fully implement the ideas put forth, but this year’s application process is a big step in the intended direction.

We’re down to two essays!

The biggest change is requiring only two sets of essays and evidence in the application. The first will be based on a standard that is self-selected by the district based on its annual focus and accomplishments. The second will relate to the opportunity gap.

The Boards of Distinction continues to hold rigorous standards. Rigor is not about quantity, it’s about quality. When developing their application, boards can use the following guiding questions that judges ask:

1. What decisions did the board make?
2. What is the evidence of the results?
3. How does the evidence fit the standard?

Application information was emailed to all school directors and superintendents in mid-August. The deadline for submissions is September 21.

THREAT ASSESSMENT

STAFF/STUDENT BOUNDARIES

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Is your district ready for Back to School?

Keeping up with school law is no easy task. Acclaimed Washington school attorneys will address leading-edge topics at the 2017 WSSDA Law Conference. [Register online](#)



TEAM WSSDA: Growing together to support YOU!

This past spring, during WSSDA's Regional Meetings, I shared the evolution of WSSDA's structure pictured as a strong tree whose trunk and branches solidly support each other, and every one of you, our 1,477 members. Forming a strong trunk with efficient operations (finance, communications, etc.) are the basis of how our three branches operate. Those branches are Leadership Development Services, Governmental Relations, and Policy and Legal Services.

For those of you who attended the regional meetings, you'll recall the leaves on which we asked you to share your feedback about what you would like to see "more of" and "less of" in our service to you. As we bring new staff aboard (three just this summer), we continue to grow our tree and reflect on your feedback. In fact, your leaves fill one of the walls in our office. Available for the entire staff to see everyday, we use them to guide the continued growth of our broad-based and customized services. Please take a minute to "meet" our new team members and feel free to let us know how we can grow with you! —Tim Garchow



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▲ ABIGAIL WESTBROOK

After graduating from Seattle University's School of Law, Abigail worked several years at Washington's Court of Appeals before becoming a Program Supervisor, ESD Liaison, and complaint investigator for OSPI. An avid bicyclist (the kind without the motor), Abigail has ridden from Seattle to Portland, Seattle to Vancouver B.C., and up, down, and around Mount Rainier!



▼ LOGAN ENDRES

Logan comes to WSSDA after spending 5 years at OSPI where he supported the School Improvement and Bilingual Education programs. Most recently, he led department efficiency efforts and assisted in the development of the ESSA State Plan. Logan is earning his BA in Public Policy and loves to spend time outdoors.



▲ SEAN DUKE

Sean comes to WSSDA after a stint at Seattle Public Schools' communications office where he focused on supporting the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Prior to that, he spent 8 years at Shoreline Community College, departing as Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications. A world traveller, he also holds an MA TESOL degree and is conversant in two Asian languages.





A Tale of Four Sessions:

Summarizing the 2017 Legislative Session

It was the best of times and the worst of times...and still, we persist. The 2017 regular and three special legislative sessions were unprecedented and harrowing for all involved. Reflecting on the roller coaster of these past seven months, there is much to be proud of, but still significant work to be done.

The Legislature tackled big issues of great importance to school board directors. Progress was made on some of WSSDA's top legislative priorities, including: school siting (conditions for building schools outside of Urban Growth areas); public records act; educator recruitment, retention, and certification; and high school graduation requirements. School director voices have been critical in informing and influencing this work.

Two areas to note for continuing diligence:

1. BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING AND POLICY
Districts are now unpacking the abundance of complexities contained within House Bill (HB) [2242](#), which will serve as the roadmap for K-12 policy and funding in the coming years. Highlights include increased investment in the Learning Assistance Program, professional learning days for educators, and creation of a statewide health care program for school employees starting in 2019. Areas requiring further analysis to determine their implications

include basic education program funding (i.e., special education), educator compensation, enrichment levy policies and rates, and ultimately, whether the funding provided will be sufficient over time to meet school districts' basic education needs. To better understand the bill, see this [summary](#).

While HB 2242 does make some progress in investing in our state's students and educators, phased in over several years, the devil is in the details for determining how districts may or may not benefit over time. The 2018 session will be essential in making important adjustments to the unanticipated challenges in these new policies.

Between now and then, be sure to communicate your concerns about HB 2242 policies and funding with us and your legislators to proactively inform 2018 legislation to "fix" some of the issues.

2. 2017-19 CAPITAL BUDGET
Unfortunately passage of a full 2017-19 capital budget remains unfinished business. The budget continues to be in limbo until legislators reach agreement on how to address an unrelated Supreme Court decision on water rights. While the House and Senate both have full (and very similar) 2017-19 capital budget bills ready, most projects dependent on the funding

remain on hold without a final enacted budget. Unfortunately, it seems that action may not take place until later this fall. WSSDA has partnered on a new website (www.WASchoolConstruction.org) where you can learn more about the budget delay and submit questions.

School districts must continue to communicate the impacts of this delay with policy makers.

As locally elected officials yourselves, the work of school directors bears some resemblance to that of our 147 "citizen" legislators. For most, serving in Olympia is not their primary job. And, like school board directors, legislators are confronted with volumes of information to study in order to thoughtfully affect policy, while also balancing competing commitments and interests. Their work, like yours, is critically important and not easy. Bottom line? Stay vigilant and engaged as partners. Our students need you, as do our state policy makers.

Finally, WSSDA's 2017 legislative session updates and final session summary are available at wssda.org/LegUpdates. There, you'll find more details and links to pertinent issue background and bill resources. Be sure to bookmark that page to stay connected as the 2018 session approaches!

Washington State's

CAPITAL BUDGET DELAY



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

State capital funds already scheduled for **56 school construction and renovation projects in 36 school districts** across the state are currently **on hold**, waiting on the State Legislature to pass its capital budget for the 2017-19 biennium. Without an approved capital budget, **\$1.03 billion dollars**, identified and agreed upon by the Legislature in Senate Bill 5981 for K-12 school construction projects, **are unavailable**.

WHY DIDN'T THE BUDGET PASS?

Water resource management legislation (unrelated to education) is holding up passage. While the Legislature passed a \$43.7 billion¹ statewide **operating budget**, which addresses increased funding for K-12 school operations, the **capital budget** must be passed for \$1.03 billion in school construction project funds to be distributed.

WHEN WILL THIS BE RESOLVED?

It is unclear when the Legislature will return to adopt a capital budget.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

Share your questions or concerns about the impacts on your district at **www.WAschoolconstruction.org**. We will gather information and answer questions.

1 Washington State Operating Budget: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/BudgetO.aspx>
2 Washington State Capital Budget: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/budgetcap.aspx>
3 Associated General Contractors of America, Sept. 2016 report
4 Rider Levett Bucknall North America Quarterly Construction Cost Report, Second Quarter 2017

WASHINGTON STATE CONSTRUCTION

By the Numbers

25.8
PERCENT

of the 2017-19 Washington State Capital Budget is appropriated for K-12 construction.²

ALL
295

Washington school districts could lose the opportunity to participate in OSPI's 2017-19 capital programs.

\$10.4
BILLION

in construction wages and salaries from public and private projects contributed to the state's economy in 2015.³

Construction costs in Seattle increased by

5.16
PERCENT

from April 2016 to April 2017.⁴



POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES



ECONOMIC IMPACT & LOCAL JOB LOSS

School construction is a large, specialty industry. The immediate loss of thousands of construction jobs, the impacts of those lost wages on our local communities, and the negative economic impacts for suppliers are real and painful.



HALT OF CURRENT CONSTRUCTION

Even existing projects with funding from the previous capital budget may come to a halt because payment from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) might be delayed.



INCREASE IN COSTS

Construction costs are rising quickly, and school construction plans may need to be redesigned and scaled back due to delays. School construction bonds that communities voted on might not be able to happen as planned.



DELAYED FUNDING IMPACTS

The longer it takes for a capital budget to be adopted, the more K-12 projects throughout the state will be in line for funding. With a line-up of competition, it will be more difficult to fund all needs.



MATERIALS & LABOR SHORTAGE

When the budget is finally passed, many districts will seek labor and materials simultaneously, and a shortage of design, construction and materials capacity in the marketplace will drive up costs and push out timelines.



SIGNIFICANT LOST PLANNING TIME

Many districts have already put projects out to bid, and, because bids must be approved by OSPI, this process may be hindered and require rebidding. A delay could require resubmissions of land use and building permit applications as well.



BIO - Sen. Jim Honeyford was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1994 and to the State Senate in 1998 to represent the 15th Legislative District. In addition to other committees, he serves as the Ways & Means Committee Vice Chair and Capital Budget lead. He is a former teacher, coach, and librarian at the Sunnyside School District from 1966-1995. He and his wife, Jerri, live in Sunnyside and have four grown children.

Sen. Jim Honeyford (R) 15th Legislative District

Q: How do your earliest memories of school influence your role as a leader with the state's capital budget today?

A: Conklin Elementary, Mrs. Stover was my first grade teacher. This was at the end of WW II and we did not have any kindergarten classes. The only influence was that I now realize how important it is for all students to have a good start in school.

Q: What can school directors do to more effectively engage with the Legislature on capital policy and budget matters?

A: Directors should provide tours of their building to show the needs that they have. They must have good maintenance programs in place that are evident in the tours. With the levy provisions in the recently passed education bill most districts will see a decrease in their property taxes. I hope that voters will then be more willing to vote and pay for construction/maintenance of their schools.

Q: What are your hopes for the work of the school construction task force, and how best can school directors provide input?

A: Hopefully a prioritized list for funding as the capital budget cannot do it all at once. I believe districts must consider what type of building is best for the education of their students. Avoid building, what I call, fad schools that in a few years have to be remodeled to provide more functionality. Input is best provided to their local legislators so that they will prioritize their local schools over their member requests.

Q: What do you see as the most significant investment the Legislature has made to support K-12 schools? **A:** There are several areas of significant investments. Each biennium we fully fund the projected school construction projects. We have provided added funding to K-3 construction grants, STEM lab grants and the small rural school grants. With these programs in place I believe we have established the foundation for future funding.

Q: How do you decompress after a long challenging legislative session? **A:** I catch up on all the projects around our home, tinker in my shop, work on my Model A Fords and reading.



Rep. Steve Tharinger was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 2010 to represent the 24th Legislative District. He serves as chair of the House Capital Budget Committee. Rep. Tharinger is also a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Health Care and Wellness Committee. He is a former small business owner and past three term Clallam County Commissioner. He and his wife, Yvonne, reside in Dungeness.

Rep. Steve Tharinger (D) 24th Legislative District

Q: How do your earliest memories of school influence your role as a leader with the state's capital budget today? **A:**

I attended kindergarten in an old brick schoolhouse in Glen Lake, Minnesota, steam pipes and creaky stairs. As a brand new student the building seemed fine.

Q: What can school directors do to more effectively engage with the Legislature on capital policy and budget matters?

A: It is important for school directors to meet with their legislators in district at the school sites, so legislators get an on-the-ground perspective of the challenges districts are dealing with around maintenance and the need for new construction. Time is limited when the legislature is in session, as you all know, so unless it is a specific piece of legislation, the onsite visit are more educational about the issues than office visits.

Q: What are your hopes for the work of the school construction task force, and how best can school directors provide input?

A: It seems to me that the SCAP formula is out of date and needs some work. We have language in the biennial capital budget to establish a work group to look at updating the process. If and when we do get a capital budget, it would be helpful to have school directors input on a reworking of the formula.

Q: What do you see as the most significant investment the Legislature has made to support K-12 schools? **A:** Almost 60% of the state's capital budget goes to school construction, I think that is significant. We are a fast growing state with many schools busting at the joints. We need to meet the challenge of more schools and classrooms. We need to develop a more robust production chain in the state to drive costs down. I think as CLT develops we could see portables replaced with a more long term, quickly constructed classroom alternative.

Q: How do you decompress after a long challenging legislative session? **A:** For me, this session is not over until the Legislature passes a capital budget, so I am still working on accomplishing that. In the interim I try to get outside and enjoy the natural wonders of Washington state by hiking, kayaking and biking.

elections

Through elections, the association fills positions for WSSDA board, WSSDA board officers and elected committees. The following pages outline the open positions. Voting to elect WSSDA board officers runs through September 29. Voting for all other positions will occur at caucus meetings during Annual Conference.

Aurora Flores

Committee Nominee
CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT



As a senior in high school, I was selected to represent our high school in a day-at-the capitol event. A student from another local high

school and myself spent the day with our state representative and saw the inner workings of the Legislature. Little did I know that day would change the course of my life in many ways? The impact that that day had on my hopes for an education, for myself and others, was deeply embedded in my heart and soul.

As the oldest of nine children, I was not able to attend college after high school because of the lack of resources. However, after being out of high school for ten years (and three kids later), I made the decision to return to school. Currently, I have finished my doctoral coursework and working on completing my dissertation for my doctorate in Education. I worked as a state auditor for close to 20 years and, most currently, as an academic counselor in an alternative learning environment. Education has been a passion as well as a vocation; but, now it is also my career. I have witnessed first-hand the difference an education can make in people's lives.

I have been married to my husband of 46 years. I have four children and six grandchildren. All of my children graduated from our local public school system and have gone on to colleges such as Washington State University, Western Washington University, and the University of Washington. Yes, it makes for an interesting Apple Cup weekend!

First, I'd like to begin by extending my heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to have served as your Vice-President. The investment you have made in me is appreciated and has been a great experience. WSSDA's mission, vision and goals are forward thinking and provide the conduit for professional development for our members in order to move towards excellent governance so that all students succeed. WSSDA's advocacy will continue to be critical. We cannot be silent in proclaiming what we need to provide an education that is excellent and immersed in equity. As one of the largest employers in the state of Washington that manages budgets that require inordinate fiduciary responsibility, we serve over 1.1 million students, hire over 62,000 teachers and continue to make every effort to improve the learning for the 44% of the students that live in poverty. Juggling different needs at different levels with different goals can sometimes make for interesting meetings at all levels. At the same time, we need to envision our path as one that leads to the same goal that provides hope for all of our students.

In my role as your President-elect, I will continue the work that has been started on issues that are important to our members. Issues such as funding, equity for all our students across the state, the continuous improvement of services to our school directors, professional development of our members, being a voice and providing advocacy for our 1477 board directors across the state, ensure that we sit at the table with our partners in education so as to advance education policy, provide policy services to our members to ensure that we have safe, secure learning environments and be the "go to" organization for our members when the need arises for school district large and small, rural and non-rural, east and west.

Finally, education has always been my passion and, as I stated in my personal statement, it is now my career. I see the challenges at the grassroots, personal level. I experience the heartfelt concerns of parents as they navigate the pathways for their students' academic success. According to Thomas Friedman in his book, Thank You for Being Late, he states that to "compete for middle-class jobs, which require more knowledge and education to perform successfully, you need more of the 3 R's and more of the four C's – creativity, collaboration, communication and coding." As school board directors, this is the challenge before us.

As a school board member for over 20 years and legislative representative for over half of that time, I experienced first-hand the frustration as we pour over a budget that just quite doesn't meet all our needs, desires and hopes for our community's children. Serving on the Legislative Committee also has given me the opportunity to advocate for those legislative issues that are important to our members. In addition, serving on the WSSDA board as board member representing Director Area 7, has given me the opportunity to see the organization from the 30,000-foot level. I am also serving as a governor-appointed board member of the Professional Educator Standards Board. The challenges of meeting the needs of our local school districts so as to meet the teacher demands is/will be a major issue in our state. I strongly believe that public schools with local control are still our best public education option.

We have a lot of work ahead of us! WSSDA will need to provide the services necessary to garner the skills and knowledge essential so that our members are ready for the challenging work. I ask that you let me be part of that work and allow me to continue to serve you by electing me as your President-elect.

Cindy Kelly

Additional Nominee
CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Cindy has lived on the Olympic Peninsula for 40 years and is an individual who has passion about public education and family. She has been married to Timm for 40 years and they have three grown children and three grandchildren. They have been blessed to live in Clallam Bay, Forks and Port Angeles where she has been very involved in the communities from Dry Creek Grange, Forks Old Fashioned celebration to her Port Angeles School Board. When she makes a commitment, you can count on Cindy to be actively involved. If you want to make a difference you must be in the canoe and paddling. She serves on the Washington School Boards' Educational Foundation for the past 14 years along with countless WSSDA committees and community organizations.

Cindy's career includes Allstate Insurance, Department of Natural Resources, Olympic National Forest, Olympic National Park and currently she has been the Manager of Dry Creek Water for the past 28 years. You can tell that dedication is a strong asset that Cindy brings from her family, career and especially the work on her Port Angeles School Board and WSSDA. She is a proud member of Delaware Nation.

Her vision is that all 1477 school board directors have a voice, that we continue to be the go-to organization and that we work together for all our students and provide them the opportunities and resources they need for their successful educational journey.



My name is Cindy Kelly and I am running for WSSDA Vice President. I have served on the Port Angeles School Board for 16 years and during that time served as Board President, Legislative Representative and on multiple committees. My experience as a local board member includes hiring two superintendents, budget reductions, multiple levy passages, closure of schools and school boundary changes.

My leadership at the state level began with service on several WSSDA committees including: Annual Conference Planning, Trust Lands Task Force, Diversity-Multicultural Advocacy team and Interscholastic Activities Committee. I joined the Washington School Boards' Education Foundation board in 2003.

I strengthened my legislative experience and knowledge through my service on the WSSDA Legislative Committee and the NSBA Federal Relations Network. I have been fortunate to advocate for our students with both state and federally elected officials. I appreciate the relationship I have created over the years with our policy makers at both levels.

I continued my leadership at a state education level when I was elected to the WSSDA Board of Directors in 2010. I am currently WSSDA minority delegate and represent WSSDA at NSBA Annual Delegate Assembly.

While serving as WSSDA Tribal liaison to Tribal Leaders Congress, my legislative experience was an asset when I had the opportunity to work with Senator McCoy and his staff in writing the Progress Report on House Bill 1495 for our state legislators.

Being from the Olympic Peninsula and coming from a rural district, I understand that rural or urban, small or large district, wealthy or disadvantaged, each of us face challenges in helping our students of today and giving them the opportunities of being our leaders of tomorrow.

My belief is that you must be actively involved to make a difference and I know my years of experience, knowledge and dedication to public education has well prepared me to be your next WSSDA Vice President. I'm a proud product of public education and I believe that you can't just talk the talk but you must walk the walk.

My vision is that all 1477 school board directors have a voice, that we continue to be the go-to organization for school directors, that we empower our members with knowledge and skills to govern, provide policy resources, and most of all, we promote innovation to address new educational trends and future needs for all our students.

We have many challenges facing public education in our state from lack of resources and funding for our school facilities to equity issues and implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). I will work closely with all our partner educational organizations and reach out to my fellow school board directors across the state. I will also continue my legislative work with state and federal legislators, Tribal Leaders Congress and the Washington School Boards' Educational Foundation. It takes all of us together to continue to grow this outstanding organization. I am prepared to lead us through the collaboration and team work to achieve our goals, vision and mission.

I am looking forward to serving you and would appreciate your support and vote.

My-Linh Thai

Committee Nominee
CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

My-Linh resides in Bellevue, WA with her family and two (2) children, both attending the local public high-schools. She enjoys traveling, cooking, hiking, and reading.

My-Linh attended and graduated Federal Way High School and earned her degree in Pharmacy at the University of Washington

My-Linh's work experiences:

Refugees Health Advocate
Seattle, WA

Pediatric and General Neurology
Finance and Operating Manager, Casper, WY

Billings Clinic
HealthCare Engineer, Billings, MT

ShopKo Pharmacy
Pharmacist, Billings, MT

My-Linh has done extensive community volunteering and services for her local public schools and other causes since moving back to Washington in 2008.

My-Linh serves as the Bellevue School District Board of Director since November, 2013 election. She has served in leadership positions at her board as Vice President, member of the Legislative Committee, member of the Policy Committee; and as liaison for her Board to many community partners in the district, including:

Bellevue PTSA Council
Eastside Pathway
Community Truancy Board
Bellevue Schools Foundation
YouthLink
WSSDA Committees and Caucuses:
WSSDA Board of Director, DA2
- elected 2016.
WSSDA Legislative Committee, DA2
- elected 2014, 2015.
Large School District Caucus
Equity and Access Caucus

She is an active member of the WA Board Directors Federal Relations Network.

She is a tireless advocate for students and educators at her local school district and statewide.



I didn't dream of growing up to be a politician. In fact, I grew up in a country where its citizens do not have the privilege of electing their representatives. Decisions were made by the Communist Party and the people would simply accept and obey.

My family came to the US from Vietnam in 1983 as refugees and settled in Federal Way, WA. I entered high school as a sophomore with no command of English, graduated in 1986, and earned my degree in Pharmacy at the University of Washington in 1992.

People said, "Having kids will change your life!" I didn't believe them, until my two came along. The journey of parenthood has enriched me and continued to shape my own growth.

I decided to run for School Board Director in 2013 with the desire to carry on the work that many have shouldered and to help shape the vision and direction for the Bellevue School District through my unique personal experience. Currently, I am serving as Vice President for my school board, member of the Policy Committee, member of the Legislative Committee, liaison for Board with YouthLink (Youth Leadership), and member of the Community Truancy Board.

I remembered vividly the excitement and anticipation at my first WSSDA Annual Conference in 2013. There, I met Board Directors who were both generous with their time and knowledge. With encouragement from friends and my own desire to learn, I ran and was elected to serve on the WSSDA Legislative Committee, representing Director Area 2 in November 2014. That experience shaped my advocacy and gave me clarity for my work. From there, I participated in the Federal Relations Network, engaged in NSBA advocacy, and was elected to represent DA2 serving on WSSDA Board in November 2016. I am currently representing WSSDA at the Educator Workforce Development Workgroup (OSPI) to share our perspective and input in addressing WA State's Teacher Shortage crisis.

So, why am I running for WSSDA Vice President? WSSDA is an organization created to support Board Directors, with the capacity to further our work around Advocacy and Leadership Development. Listening to Board Directors across our state, I have learned that our stories are more similar than different. I have learned that our commitment for an equitable educational system is universal. What we need, in my view, is the opportunity to share and to collaborate. We are set up to be separated by geography (east vs. west), by size (large vs. small), by arbitrary means to create artificial differences. I believe in collaborative leadership where collective impact can be achieved for the benefit of all students. I believe in forging the connections through active listening and trust building. And I believe in sharing best-practices and innovative ideas to create learning opportunity from one another. To achieve an equitable educational system for all students and to advocate effectively, we need leaders who are collaborative, open-minded, and thoughtful. We need leaders who will support leadership-building opportunities for 1477 elected Board Directors in Washington State. We need leaders who will build bridges and connections with communities and other decision-makers. We need leaders who are willing to learn in public and who are your partners supporting your work. I am that person.

One of WSSDA's belief is "Public Education is vital to our country's democratic way of life and local school boards are vital to the success of Public Education". I am who I am today because of good Public Education. I thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to connecting with you.

Claire Wilson

Committee Nominee

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Claire Wilson brings over 35 years of experience working with children and families, in early learning and K-12 education. She was Executive Director for Policy, Governance and School/Family/Community Partnerships and Early Learning/ECEAP (WA's comprehensive preschool program) at Puget Sound Educational Service District (PESD) serving the 35 school districts within King and Pierce Counties. She was a member of PESD's Federal Delegation visiting elected officials and educational leaders in WA DC advocating for both early learning and K-12 education. She also taught high school in Tacoma for ten years where she coordinated the district's teen parent program.

Claire was first elected to the Federal Way School Board in 2011 and her current term expires in 2019. She currently holds the position of Vice President on the Board, and has also held the positions of President and Legislative Liaison. Claire was elected to the WSSDA Board representing Director Area 2 in 2015. In that role, she was appointed to the OSPI WA State Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Family and Engagement Workgroup representing WSSDA to provide recommendations and input into the initial ESSA plan for the state. She is also the current WSSDA Board Liaison to the 2017 Annual Conference Planning Committee.

Claire serves as a board member for the Sidekick Collective, a non-profit organization finding "Cosmic Heroes" - ordinary young people doing extraordinary things - and provides them with money and support to continue their dreams. Most importantly, Claire is the mom of two awesome young adults - Ethan, 19 and Sydney, 17.



I am relatively new to the WSSDA Board and would love to continue my involvement by running for the office of Vice President and supporting school directors across the state in having the knowledge, tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts, with the ultimate outcome being improved outcomes for all scholars across Washington state.

I understand the quality work that WSSDA does at the state, local and federal levels and want to make sure that continues.

WSSDA continues to be the go-to organization for school board director leadership development, advocacy/legislation, policymaking, as well as a focus on improving public school systems to close opportunity gaps - regardless of demographics, funding, or district size.

I have been involved in WSSDA on several levels and believe a next step that makes sense is running for this position. I possess the passion, commitment, knowledge, leadership skills, and abilities to be an effective Vice President for the WSSDA Board. I've been involved in education - cradle through college and career for the last 35 years. As an employee of PESD for 25 years I have been involved in PreK - 12 policy, governance, advocacy and legislation at both the state and federal levels. I have been a member of the Federal Delegation visiting Washington, D.C. and advocating for issues related to early learning and K-12 for the 35 school districts in King and Pierce County served by PESD.

Since first being elected to the Federal Way Public Schools Board I've been involved in WSSDA as FWPS Legislative Liaison for two years, as a 2015 Leadership WSSDA graduate, as a current WSSDA Board Member representing Director Area 2, as the current Annual Conference Board Liaison, and as a passionate and committed team member and colleague.

I'm excited about the direction WSSDA is taking in refining and enhancing the mission, vision, beliefs and goals. I'm especially excited about the conversations related to educational equity and the addition of a statement that articulates WSSDA's core belief. There are still key issues facing education in Washington state even with the new plan the Legislature just passed to meet the challenges brought by McCleary. Beyond unpacking what this package means related to fully funding education, other issues that will need attention are ESSA plans and their implementation, focusing with urgency on changing the trajectory for our state's students of color (through policy development, professional learning, advocacy, legislation, etc.), and a continued focus on students at the center of every decision - not the adults in the system. I'm a passionate advocate for educational equity and providing access, ownership and voice to those under-reached in our state and in our education system.

I believe there are no magic solutions. Solutions are found when groups of diverse and well-meaning people can agree on a common goal and then let go of individual beliefs and values and begin to try to understand the perspectives of others. Once relationships and common understandings are formed and created, then conversations occur that allow each to offer their best thinking to collectively come up with a solution that is owned by the group and isn't won or lost by an individual or single interest. It is agreeable to disagree - we must however, be willing to listen to understand another person's perspective. This is a critical role that WSSDA plays and I'd like to continue to be at the leadership table for these and other very important conversations to happen and to act to make a change. I will do my best to represent you and make the best decisions for WSSDA and all their stakeholders. Thank you for your vote!

Board and committee positions subject to election

Director Area One

School districts within Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Two

School districts within King County and Bainbridge Island

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
one for 3-year term
- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
two for 2-year term
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Three

School districts within Pierce County

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Four

School districts within Kitsap County (except Bainbridge), Jefferson and Clallam counties, and North Mason School District in Mason County

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
one for 3-year term
- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Five

School districts within Grays Harbor, Lewis and Thurston counties, Mason County (except North Mason); and Raymond, South Bend, Willapa Valley and North River school districts in Pacific County

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
one for 1-year unexpired term
- **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Six

School districts within Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties; Klickitat County (except Bickleton and Goldendale); and Naselle-Grays River Valley and Ocean Beach school districts in Pacific County

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
one for 3-year term
- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Seven

School districts within Chelan, Douglas, Grant (except Royal and Wahluke) and Okanogan counties

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Eight

School districts within Kittitas and Yakima counties, Royal and Wahluke school districts in Grant County, and Bickleton and Goldendale school districts in Klickitat County

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Nine

School districts within Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties; and the following school districts within Spokane County: Central Valley, Deer Park, East Valley, Mead, Nine Mile Falls, Orchard Prairie, Riverside, Spokane and West Valley

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Ten

School districts within Lincoln, Adams (except Othello) and Whitman counties; Clarkston in Asotin County; and the following school districts within Spokane County: Great Northern, Medical Lake, Freeman, Cheney and Liberty

- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term

Director Area Eleven

School districts within Asotin (except Clarkston), Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, Franklin and Benton counties, and Othello School District in Adams County

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
one for 3-year term
- **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term
- **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
one for 2-year term



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

September

- 8-9** Leadership for Innovation & Change
- 21** WSSDA Board of Directors' Meeting
- 22-23** Legislative Assembly

October

- 21** Elections of Chair and Vice Chair,
Legislative Priorities

November

- 15-16** Leadership for Life and Graduation
- 16** Interscholastic Activities Committee
WSSDA Board of Directors' Meeting
WSSDA Annual Conference-Early Bird Sessions
- 17-19** WSSDA Annual Conference, Bellevue, WA
WSSDA Board of Directors' Meeting



For the most updated calendar, visit WSSDA.org