



Direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

October 2010

State Board approves 24-credit framework

New high school graduation requirements would apply to class of 2016

The State Board of Education “provisionally” adopted a new standard of graduation requirements at its September meeting. Following an animated discussion of various options, all but one board member voted yes to put in place a mandatory 24-credit framework for the graduating class of 2016. The board will take final action on the framework at its November meeting.

The new Washington State Graduation Requirements total 15.5 mandatory credits: 4 English, 3 math, 3 social studies, 3 sciences (2 labs), 1 art, 1 occupational education, and .5 credit for health. Students can earn another 8.5 credits as follows: 1 art, 2 world languages, 1.5 fitness, 2 career concentration, and 2 electives, but are allowed to make substitutions to these credit categories depending on their High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP). The mandatory and “student choice” credits total 24.

SBE members agreed to allow local administrators to waive two credits for students who have failed a class and taken the appropriate credit recovery classes to regain the credit. Students must still pass the standardized assessment test to be eligible for the waiver.

As part of the proposal, the board voted to advocate for funding beginning in 2011, with full funding and implementation by 2016. Proponents argued to put a complete package in front of the Legislature with the mandatory credit requirements but recognized that budget realities might mean certain elements would be phased in over the next few years. Board members Bob Hughes and Steve Dal Porto argued



WSSDA Executive Director Jonelle Adams testified on graduation requirements at SBE meeting in September.

that the SBE had made a pledge to stakeholders that graduation requirements wouldn't be increased unless the funding was there, and that the State Board action breaks that pledge. Dal Porto had pushed for a 20+4 approach which failed to garner support among other State Board members.

In comments to the board, WSSDA Executive Director Jonelle Adams also advocated for a configuration of 20 credits with an option to complete an additional four. Noting that there is little chance for additional state funding to move to a mandatory 24 credits, she said a 20+4 approach would be more realistic in terms of funding and logistics.

Under SBE's newly christened “Career and College Ready” graduation requirements (available at sbe.wa.gov), incoming 9th graders will be automatically enrolled in prescribed subjects: English, math, science, social studies,

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The Blind Side and the end zone

Kevin Laverty, WSSDA President



As fall begins, football language fills the air—kickoff, first down, quarterback sneak, blitz and one of recent note was a double entendre in the form of a movie, “The Blind Side,” starring Sandra Bullock. The real meaning of the quarterback’s blind side is exactly that—he can’t see the defender coming at him from the opposite side of his throwing arm. The story line in the movie focused on giving a child in

need a chance to succeed on the football field and off.

Stepping away from football, this year has seen WSSDA make some progress even though its blind side wasn’t always protected—that, of course, is part of a year where the game plan shifted and new leadership came on board.

Several steps were taken to better position our organization for the future—a financial investment was made to revamp the website and integrate systems that will make wssda.org easier to navigate and, ultimately, will allow us to offer policy services and related capabilities to school districts; there was a concerted outreach beyond traditional education-based constituencies and expanded to include direct dialogue with the Washington Roundtable, Partnership for Learning and Association of Washington Businesses; a laser-like focus on Lighthouse training for school boards developed; lastly, the Board agreed to create an urban-suburban schools task force to look at areas of common concern and shared practice for our larger school district members.

In addition, both OSPI and the governor’s office received a clear message that WSSDA is not chopped liver—but actually a dynamic, engaged group of local elected officials. Exemplifying that was the appointment of WSSDA president-elect Deborah Heart to serve to the Governor’s Committee on Transforming Washington’s Budget.

We did what we could to keep unnecessary school district consolidation off the legislative agenda but it found its way into the final budget bill. Fortunately, the governor decided to pull it from the budget as she wanted to keep the ball moving down field with the state’s Race To The Top application.

We also had the good fortune to have one of our own get down in the weeds of long-term education funding in our state. He created a plan in conjunction with others on the Quality Education Council that the WSSDA Board endorsed early on in the legislative session. We know it as The (David) Iseminger Plan.

As we approach the annual conference, we may have saved the best for last. Dr. Adams has arranged for a powerful session at lunch on Thursday that features a group of distinguished panelists, including a student, on how to motivate students, particularly those who aren’t on track to graduate, to self-start and get excited about learning.

Each year at WSSDA, leadership steps up and sometimes emerges from the least likely places, but our organization is on task and focused on our core principle—to serve your needs as school board members so that we can help the students in our schools succeed in life. If we do this consistently, we’ll have the ball in the end zone again and again—winners one and all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Laverty".

Core 24

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health and fitness, arts, world languages, occupational education and career concentration. Students will have two electives and some flexibility to allow for a few substitutions to align with their HSBP.

In related action, the Board agreed to propose new rules that would allow students to earn one credit and satisfy two graduation requirements (one academic and one career and technical) by completing a CTE course determined by the district to be equivalent to an academic course, and allow districts to set the limit on number of the “2 for 1” classes a student can take. However, students still need to earn the minimum number of credits to graduate.

Another policy recommendation was to change the 150-hour restriction on credit definition to allow for the successful completion of the subject area content expectations or guidelines as set by the state and adopted in written policy by the district. The action passed unanimously, with Board members believing this move will allow districts more flexibility to use creative and innovative approaches to learning other than just “seat time.”

Finally, the board adopted policy recommendations to start the High School and Beyond Plan in middle school, offer no credit for Washington state history but require a notation on the student’s transcript that the requirement was met, and add .5 credit of civics to graduation requirements.

The board will gather feedback on the new graduation requirements and the policy recommendations from stakeholders over the next two months but made it clear that members will not debate the 24-credit requirement again. For more information visit www.sbe.wa.gov.

WSSDA wrestles with health care cost increases

At its regular meeting in September, the WSSDA Board of Directors wrestled with how to address a potential budget deficit in the coming year, a deficit aggravated by an estimated \$68,000 in mandatory cost increases related to health care, retirement and unemployment.

After lengthy discussion and debate, the board voted to request a membership dues increase of one percent—or about \$17,000—to help offset those cost increases. The request goes to the WSSDA Delegate Assembly, which meets Nov. 19 in Spokane in conjunction with the association's Annual Conference.

The board agreed to submit the request for a dues increase following a review of the preliminary association budget for 2011. In the coming year, the association is facing obligatory cost increases for employee health care, retirement benefits and unemployment.

"In these difficult financial times, this was an especially tough decision for our board," said WSSDA President Kevin Laverty. "However, given that mandatory increases associated with health care and retirement for our employees take effect in 2011, the board agreed that a one percent increase was necessary to help offset these requirements."

WSSDA Executive Director Jonelle Adams emphasized that the association will also address the deficit through

continued efficiencies in areas such as operations and travel, and will pursue revenue opportunities through grants and other sources. She noted, however, that income from grants cannot be used to cover the costs of employee benefits.

In other news from the Sept. 23 board meeting:

- Acting on the recommendations of a board subcommittee, the board voted to submit several proposed changes to the WSSDA Bylaws to the Delegate Assembly in November. The proposals include: limiting the terms of WSSDA Board of Directors positions to two consecutive three-year terms; revamping the process for WSSDA officer elections to allow all school directors to vote regardless of whether they attend the association's annual conference; and designating the Immediate Past President position as a WSSDA officer. Any changes in the bylaws must be approved by the Assembly.
- The Board heard a report on proposed rules being drafted by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction related to implementing HB 3026, a new law prohibiting discrimination in schools. WSSDA staff is monitoring the rulemaking process and will advise school directors when final draft rules are available for review.

The next meeting of the WSSDA Board of Directors will take place Nov. 17 in conjunction with the WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane.

Kelly appointed to WSSDA Board of Directors



Kelly

Port Angeles School Director Cindy Kelly has been appointed to the WSSDA Board of Directors for Director Area 4. Kelly was selected by a unanimous vote of the WSSDA board during a special teleconference meeting in September. The appointment fills a vacancy created by the recent resignation of Chris Stokke (Central Kitsap) from the WSSDA board.

Kelly has been a member of the Port Angeles School District Board of Directors for nine years. Her participation in WSSDA includes service on the Legislative Committee, the Annual Conference Planning Committee, the Federal Relations Network, the Diversity Multicultural Advocacy Team, and the Trust Lands Task Force. She is also president of the Washington State School Boards' Education Foundation.

The appointment is effective immediately and will continue until the next regular election for the position, which will take place during director area caucus elections at the WSSDA Annual Conference in November.

Online tribal sovereignty curriculum launched

Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State, is a ground-breaking curriculum developed with federal, state, and tribal funding. This web-based curriculum—piloted in 14 schools during the past two years—seeks to build lasting educational partnerships between school districts and tribes via elementary, middle, and high school curriculum on tribal sovereignty. Lessons and teacher helps are provided.

Visit www.tribalsov.ospi.k12.wa.us/ and click on "Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum." Questions? Contact OSPI Indian Education Office, 360.725.6160 or joan.banker@k12.wa.us.

WSSDA leadership elections: Your association's future



**WSSDA
President-elect
Deborah Heart
(Goldendale).**

School directors from around the state will select WSSDA officers at the association's Annual Conference in Spokane next month. The leadership team and several other elected positions will be determined.

This section of the newsletter contains information on the various positions up for election, statements from the officer candidates, and the

schedule for nominations and voting. Be sure to cast your ballot at the conference, and consider lending your talents to the association through committee service.



Elections for WSSDA President-elect and Vice President

The WSSDA Nominating Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Martha Rice (Yakima), nominated the following candidates for officer positions:

For President-elect:

Mary Fertakis (Tukwila)

For Vice President:

Debra Long (Central Valley)

The official report from the WSSDA Nominating Committee will be presented during opening ceremonies of the WSSDA Annual Conference on Thursday, Nov. 18, in Spokane. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor during this session.

Voting for all WSSDA positions will take place during Conference caucus meetings held the morning of Friday, Nov. 19.

Elections for WSSDA Board of Directors and standing committees

Nominations for the WSSDA Board of Directors and committee positions will be made at the association's Annual Conference caucus meetings held the morning of Friday, Nov. 19. Voting for all WSSDA positions subject to election will take place during the caucuses. (See page 7 for a list of positions subject to election.)

Board of Directors/Committees

Each WSSDA Director Area has one representative on the Board of Directors, the Resolutions Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Interscholastic Activities Committee, except for Area Two, which has two representatives on each of those committees. Each area has two representatives on the Legislative Committee, except for Area Two, which has four representatives.

Board of Directors — Members of the Board of Directors serve three-year terms, and one-third of the Board is elected each year.

Legislative Committee — Members of the Legislative Committee serve two-year terms, and one-half of the representatives from each area are elected each year.

Nominating Committee — Members of the Nominating Committee serve two-year terms, and representatives from odd-numbered director areas are elected to full terms in even-numbered years. Those from even-numbered areas are elected to full terms in odd-numbered years.

Resolutions Committee — Members of the Resolutions Committee serve two-year terms, and representatives from the odd-numbered director areas are elected to full terms in odd-numbered years. Those from even-numbered areas are elected to full terms in even-numbered years.

Interscholastic Activities Committee — Members of the Interscholastic Activities Committee serve two-year terms, and representatives from odd-numbered director areas are elected to full terms in even-numbered years. Those from even-numbered areas are elected to full terms in odd-numbered years.

Candidate statements

President-elect Candidate Mary Fertakis



Fertakis

Mary Fertakis has been a member of the Tukwila School Board for 15 years. She served as President for two years, Vice President for five years, and Legislative Representative for 10 years. Fertakis was elected to the WSSDA Board in 2008, and also served on the Board from 2000-2003.

She is a graduate of the L-WSSDA Class of 2006. Other WSSDA service includes the Legislative Committee, Urban Issues Committee, Federal Relations Network, the Achievement Gap Task Force, and D-MAT. On the WSSDA Board she has served on the Finance Subcommittee, Executive Director Evaluation Task Force, Liaison to the Legislative Committee and Executive Committee. Fertakis has presented at several conferences, including the WSSDA, NSBA, and Celebrating Educational Opportunities conferences. She is co-founder of the Tukwila Children's Foundation, which provides grants to serve children in the Tukwila Community.

Candidate statement

I am honored to be a candidate for WSSDA President-Elect, and welcome the opportunity to take everything I have learned in my 15 years as a School Director and use it for the benefit of the Association.

Our primary job as School Directors is to oversee an education system that increases student achievement. Our governance responsibilities (vision, structure, accountability, and advocacy) should be focused on this goal as our top priority—and WSSDA's job is to provide the training and support we need to see our students succeed. Training that helps us fulfill our roles, and that provides us with the tools to successfully lead the incremental and systemic change necessary for student achievement to occur in our local districts is the foundation of WSSDA's services. What WSSDA provides is not replicated elsewhere in Washington State.

We are serving in our communities at a critical time in education. National and state economy issues are resulting in budget cutbacks in our districts. Congress continues to delay re-authorization of ESEA/No Child Left Behind, so the onerous pieces of this legislation are labeling an increasing number of our schools as "failing". The federal Department of Education and current Administration are becoming more proscriptive in their reform efforts, while at the same time

promoting competition between schools, districts and states for the available dollars. This is contrary to a foundational concept of equal access provided by the American public school system. Our students should not have to compete to receive an excellent, K-12 education.

The need for the leadership, big picture perspective, and expertise School Directors possess is more important than ever. WSSDA members are the only elected group of people representing education. We are in the best position to advocate for students, while understanding the full picture of what is happening within our local districts and the system. Our Constitution declares it is "the paramount duty of the state to provide amply for education." We have been given a legal platform, through this document, which validates the priority of K-12 education. Therefore, we may legitimately take the lead in any discussion on education policy, governance, or funding.

In a tough economy, it is easy to view education as an expense rather than an investment in our children.

However, as Directors, we have a responsibility to use data—and our own experiences—to make a powerful case for the enormous societal costs associated with NOT making this investment in early learning and K-12 education. Articulating the issues around access and opportunity gaps that contribute to the achievement gap, and the extra supports our neediest students require for success is part of our job. Engaging our parents, community members, business leaders, and elected officials in a pro-active and respectful manner in this discussion is going to be extremely important before and during this coming legislative session. We do not have the luxury of sitting back and watching what happens in Olympia—we need to be actively involved in shaping what is ultimately decided on. Our actions—or inaction—will have a direct effect on every student in our districts.

School Directors are in an extraordinary position to contribute to the long-term health and well-being of our communities. With the training and support WSSDA provides, and our knowledge of local student needs, we can be catalysts for creating and sustaining a learning environment which results in high levels of student success - and stronger communities.

I look forward to working with my WSSDA colleagues to address the issues facing education as your association President - Elect.

Candidate statements

Vice President Candidate Debra Long



Long

Debbie Long has been a member of the Central Valley School Board for the past seven years. During her tenure she has served as President, Vice President and legislative representative. Long has served on the WSSDA Legislative committee since 2004 and has been their chair for the past two years.

Long is a member of the Central Valley Band & Colorguard booster organization and has been their craft fair chairperson since 1994. Long also serves as a volunteer coordinator for the Bloomsday organization and serves on the EWU Alumni board. Long has earned an Accounting degree from Spokane Falls Community College. Long also is a graduate of Eastern Washington University where she earned a bachelor degree in Business Administration with a minor in Human Resources and a Masters Degree in Public Administration. Long is a member of Route 72 quilters who make and donate quilts to the Hope house.

Candidate statement

I am honored to be considered a candidate for WSSDA Vice President, and if elected, I will use this position to benefit our children.

School boards all over this country are trusted by the public to make the crucial decisions about how we will educate our children and prepare them for successful careers and fulfilling lives. We entrust local citizens with the responsibility of governing our public schools so that each community can choose the direction of their own children's educational experience.

Good school board members are clear and independent thinkers, who listen well, ask reasonable questions, exercise fairness and strive to do "what's right for kids." Electing people who understand the board's role in accountability, see the need to solve problems as they occur, and have the strength to stand up for what's right can make all the difference between a district that struggles ... and one that soars. I believe I possess these qualities, which is why I am running for the position of Vice President.

As your WSSDA Vice President I will make it my mission to ensure that all school board members have the knowledge,

tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts and champion public education. In order to promote student learning, we must learn to advocate. We need to stand up for our children and not let legislators, OSPI, or the Board of Education dictate to us. When decisions are being made that affect our students' learning, we need to be involved and be sitting at the table. We can no longer afford to sit idly by and become an item on the menu. Furthermore, we need to encourage all school board members to participate in professional development so they can effectively govern their districts.

Every day in America, important decisions are made about the kind of curriculum we should offer and the values our children should learn. As a school board director I realize that it is our responsibility to create citizens who are capable of self-governance. It's not about what the kids want; it's about what a democracy demands. It is about more than the kids or the interest groups that are currently throwing white papers and expensive ad campaigns at each other. Our mission and vision should be that all children have the right to be heard and we are their voice.

Quality public schools have a profound impact on the lives of children and communities, and form the foundation for a strong and stable democracy. Successful education happens when knowledgeable, passionate teachers are joined by parents, and supported by leadership that sets high standards and offers consistent support. School board directors must partner with parents, teachers and administrators to give our schools the tools needed for providing the best education possible. We must build upon the fundamental skills of reading, writing and math by giving our students the knowledge they will need, including problem solving, computer and vocational skills. But education does not stop there. Education must include fine art programs, debate teams, technical, vocational programs and more. We must provide avenues for all children to learn and a reason for them to stay in school.

Today, more than ever, our school districts face huge budget shortfalls and programs are at risk. Our Washington State legislators, senators, and the governor must understand that the paramount duty of our state is to educate our children so that they may lead our nation to a greater future.

I look forward to serving you as your next WSSDA Vice President.

Board and committee positions subject to election

The following positions are up for election as of press time. Please note that vacancies can result in additions to this list prior to the WSSDA Annual Conference in November. Revisions will be posted to the WSSDA website.

Director Area One

School districts within Northwest ESD 189 (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties)

- Board of Directors – one for 3-year term
- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one for 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – one for 2-year term
- Nominating Committee – one for 2-year term
- Resolutions Committee – one for 2-year term

Director Area Two

School districts within Puget Sound ESD (King County and Bainbridge Island School District)

- Board of Directors – one for 3-year term
- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one for 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – two for 2-year term
- Nominating Committee – one for 2-year term and one for 1-year unexpired term
- Resolutions Committee – one for 2-year term

Director Area Three

School districts within Puget Sound ESD (Pierce County)

- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Nominating Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Four

School districts within Olympic ESD 114 (Kitsap County [except Bainbridge], Jefferson and Clallam counties and North Mason School District in Mason County)

- Board of Directors – one 1-year unexpired term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Resolutions Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Five

School districts within ESD 113 (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Thurston counties; Mason County [except North Mason]; and Raymond, South Bend, Willapa Valley and North River districts in Pacific County)

- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Nominating Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Six

School districts within ESD 112 (Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties; Klickitat County [except Bickleton and Goldendale]; and Naselle-Grays River Valley and Ocean Beach in Pacific County)

- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Resolutions Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Seven

School districts within North Central ESD (Chelan, Douglas, Grant [except Royal and Wahluke] and Okanogan counties)

- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Nominating Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Eight

School districts within ESD 105 (Kittitas and Yakima counties, Royal and Wahluke school districts in Grant County, and Bickleton and Goldendale school districts in Klickitat County)

- Board of Directors – one 3-year term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Resolutions Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Nine

School districts within NorthEast Washington ESD 101 (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)

- Board of Directors – one 3-year term
- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term and one 1-year unexpired term
- Nominating Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Ten

School districts within NorthEast Washington ESD 101 (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 2-year term
- Resolutions Committee – one 2-year term

Director Area Eleven

School districts within ESD 123 (Asotin [except Clarkston], Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, Franklin and Benton counties; Othello School District in Adams County)

- Interscholastic Activities Committee – one 2-year term
- Legislative Committee – one 2-year term
- Nominating Committee – one 2-year term



Expert policy assistance available through WSSDA



McDonald

As WSSDA's policy consultant, Dr. Kathleen L. McDonald provides a full analysis of local school district policy manuals to ensure that policies meet state and federal requirements. This service includes an inspection of the district's policies comparing them with policies from the WSSDA Policy Reference Manual, a comprehensive set of Washington-specific sample policies regarding the board of directors, instruction, students, community relations, personnel and administration. The

inspection covers all policies, including those customized by the district to meet its unique needs, and identifies inconsistencies or non-compliance issues. During on-site review sessions, recommendations are discussed with the board and administrators. This process takes place throughout the year and includes assistance in updating and drafting new policies for the district.

McDonald has 35 years of diverse experience throughout Washington state working with educational systems that span pre-K through graduate school learning. She worked as a teacher and counselor in three districts, completed administrative and policy development training in two districts and at OSPI, and provided training in student support services to nearly two hundred districts. Her experience includes assisting in developing tribal policies, launching a new community/public alternative high school for the arts, increasing K-12 student success by administering federal grants in nine school districts, and training school counselors at the graduate level in five universities. For information on costs for policy consultation contact Marilee Scarbrough, 360.252.3017 or M.Scarbrough@wssda.org.

Urban-suburban task force seeks applicants

WSSDA is seeking applicants for membership on the association's new Task Force on Urban/Suburban Schools Issues. At its August meeting, the board approved a charge for the new task force and gave the go-ahead for recruitment of members.

The goal of the task force is "to bring together school districts of a typical student population of at least 10,000 or otherwise facing challenges common to a surrounding urban-suburban area to discuss issues and recommend action. Issues to be considered include student achievement, ethnic diversity, low income and poverty services, law enforcement and safety, inter-district collaboration, school facilities, and related topics of concern to all school directors in an effort to chart recommended policies and direction for this class of school district, as well as others that may be impacted by similar challenges."

With consent of the board, the task force may produce detailed reports or offer workshops to WSSDA members. It is expected to report annually to the board on areas covered during the course of the year and provide recommendations for board action as needed. (For a full description of the task force visit wssda.org.)

If you are interested in serving on this task force, contact WSSDA President Kevin Laverty at 206.498.8726 or wssdaprez@gmail.com.

Leadership WSSDA – more than a series of workshops

As an experienced board member, have you seen it all? Done it all? Do you know it all? Really? Consider this: Education is complex and ever-changing, so keeping up requires lifelong learning. Leadership WSSDA offers you a unique opportunity to learn and practice new ways of thinking and behaving. Improvement takes time and practice, so placing your focus on personal improvement for an extended period increases your opportunity for success.

Leadership WSSDA is a program "by school directors, for school directors." What does this mean? As a class member, you:

- Develop a network of friends from around the state who will challenge and inspire your thinking.
- Enjoy the privilege of small-group discussions with political leaders, authors, businessmen, superintendents, grassroots leaders and other presenters.
- Actively participate in each meeting. Gain confidence by leading book discussions, introducing speakers, and activities, or facilitating session wrap-ups. Thinking "on your feet" is a leadership skill worth developing.
- Help tailor the program. Each cohort involves different personalities, strengths and needs. The year-long program begins with set goals and scheduled speakers, then customizes additional content with group input.

Experienced school directors are invited to apply for the Leadership WSSDA Class of 2011. Visit wssda.org > Board Training & Resources. The deadline for applications is Dec. 1, 2010, and the first session takes place Jan. 28-29, 2011.

Challenge yourself, expand your thinking and build your repertoire of leadership skills in a small, supportive environment of friends. Join the Leadership WSSDA Class of 2011.

Legislative Assembly: Funding persists as top concern

Education funding issues, including unfunded mandates, continue to be among the top concerns for school directors as WSSDA formulates its legislative agenda for next year's session of the state Legislature.

Meeting in Vancouver (WA) last month, delegates at the WSSDA Legislative Assembly approved or reaffirmed nearly 80 positions and proposals related to legislative issues. In addition, delegates voted on which of those issues should have the highest priority.

The highest-ranked proposal adopted by the Assembly says WSSDA "shall initiate and/or support legislation that fully funds and implements all aspects of Washington's redefined program of Basic Education as outlined in ESHB 2261."

Approved in 2009, ESHB 2261 and subsequent legislation lays out a road map for overhauling the state's basic education finance system over the next several years, including implementation of a new "prototypical school" funding model. The position emphasizes that new finance structure must be fully implemented and funded, especially in light of the state budget challenges that lie ahead in the coming years. (A related position says school directors should be represented on any committee or working group established to assist with the implementation of ESHB 2261).

Delegates also gave high priority to a long-standing position related to school district special levies. The position calls for increasing the amount of funds school districts would be eligible to receive through the state's levy equalization system (also known as local effort assistance). The second part of the position opposes any increase in current limits on how much districts can raise through local levies.



School directors took part in WSSDA's Legislative Assembly in Vancouver last month

Another highly ranked position calls on the Legislature to fully fund the costs of any K-12 programs or services mandated through legislation. If they are not fully funded, the position says, those mandates should be repealed.

A full list of legislative positions and proposals, in priority order, is available online at wssda.org/assembly. Also available are presentation materials from speakers who addressed the Legislative Pre-Assembly, including Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, Deputy Superintendent Alan Burke, State Board of Education Executive Director Edie Harding, State Chief Economist Dr. Arun Raha, State Budget Director Marty Brown, Governor Gregoire's K-12 Policy Advisor Judy Hartmann, and attorney Thomas Ahearne, who represents the plaintiffs in the *McCleary v. Washington* school funding lawsuit.

The results of the priority ranking will be used by the WSSDA Legislative Committee to formulate recommendations to the WSSDA Board of Directors, which in turn will adopt the association's package of legislative priorities for 2011. For more information, contact WSSDA Governmental Relations Director Marie Sullivan at 360.252.3011 or M.Sullivan@wssda.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

Food allergies are an increasing health problem challenging school personnel daily. A webcast to be held Nov. 9, *Food Allergies and Schools: Keeping Students Safe and Ready to Learn*, will provide valuable information and insight to school board members and administrators, as well nurses, teachers and all who play essential roles in carrying out policies that keep all students safe and ready to learn.

The webcast is produced by NSBA School Health Programs in partnership with the Missouri School Boards Association's Education Solutions Global Network and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Register for the webcast at www.studentfoodallergies.org/ or contact Amanda Martinez at 703.838.6754 (amartinez@nsba.org).

The Washington State Association for Multicultural Education (WSAME) announced its annual Fall Conference, where keynote speaker Latoya Peterson will focus on social media and the new generation. Peterson challenges the media status quo, and considers herself to be an "edupunk." She is the editor of *Racialicious*, a blog where race and pop culture intersect. WSAME's release states "she represents the new generation of multicultural/diversity/social justice activists."

The conference takes place Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at North Seattle Community College. For information contact marciaz@comcast.net or 206.232.7576.

October Regional Meeting schedule

Visit wssda.org/regionalmeetings to sign up for a WSSDA Regional Meeting near you:

Walla Walla

Monday, Oct. 4, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Brewster

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Yakima

Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Hoquiam

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Ephrata

Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Lakewood

Thursday, Oct. 7, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Brush Prairie

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Republic

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Spokane Valley

Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Entry deadline extended for NSBA's Magna Awards

School board members aren't in it for the glory, but it's nice when well-deserved recognition is received. However, board members are more likely to hear from community members during times of trouble and controversy than when things are going well. That's why NSBA established the Magna Awards—to give school boards and districts a chance to share their good stories and best practices with other districts and receive well-deserved national recognition.

This year, with major documentaries and other media creating a grim picture of public education, it's important to share success stories.

Three grand-prize winners each receive \$4,000 through the support of the Magna Awards sponsor, Sodexo School Services. All winning programs are featured in a special supplement to American School Board Journal's April issue, and honored at a luncheon at the NSBA's annual conference in April in San Francisco.

The deadline for entries is extended to Oct. 29. For more information and to enter online, go www.asbj.com/magna where you can also read about past winners and search a database of Magna best practices.

Kent School District is home to 2011 Washington Teacher of the Year



Maebori

Jay Maebori, a language arts teacher at Kentwood High School in Covington is Washington's 2011 Teacher of the Year.

Maebori, who began his professional life as a sports journalist, works with gifted students, special needs, and ELL students all in the same classroom setting. Since 2001, he has taught language arts to sophomores at Kentwood in the Kent School District, and is a National Board Certified Teacher.

Nine finalists, representing the state's ESDs and tribal schools, were honored at the September ceremony, as well:

- Jeffery Wehr, Odessa High School (Odessa)
- Tracey Schepman, Valley View Elementary (Ellensburg)
- Brian Eggleston, Washougal High School (Washougal)
- Carrie Black, Rochester Middle School (Rochester)
- Melissa McBride, Stevens Middle School (Port Angeles)
- John Kerr, Pasco High School (Pasco)
- Ron Scutt, Stehekin School (Stehekin)
- Jo Anne Buiteweg, Sequoia High School (Everett)
- Abigail Chandler, Chief Leschi Schools (Washington Tribal Schools)

WELCOME, NEW SCHOOL DIRECTORS!

Congratulations and welcome to the following new school directors:

Christine Chew, *Bellevue*
Larry Bean, *Lakewood*
Deanna Warren, *Tenino*

Thanks and best wishes to those who have recently left board service:

Jill Leonard, *Lakewood*
Allison Lengyel, *Shaw Island*
Diane Jones, *Tenino*

IN MEMORIAM

Cecil Schlecht, former board member for Battle Ground Public Schools, passed away in September at his home in Pleasant Valley. Schlecht had fought a six-month battle with cancer.

WSSDA's officers, Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their deep sympathies to Cecil's family and friends, to his colleagues on the Battle Ground School Board, and the staff and students of his district.



Motivation matters: Ginsberg joins conference line-up



Ginsberg

During Thursday's Annual Conference luncheon session titled *Motivation Matters*, Margery B. Ginsberg, Ph.D., brings together a panel to

explore the connection between intrinsic motivation and learning, and ways to create schools where educators and students are highly motivated to learn. Dr. Ginsberg is an associate professor at the University of Washington-Seattle, where she works with graduate students who are aspiring principals and systems leaders.

Ginsberg's authored and co-authored books include *Creating Highly Motivating Classrooms: A Schoolwide Approach to Powerful Teaching with Diverse Learners*; *Motivation Matters: A Workbook for School Change*; and, *Teaching Intensive and Accelerated Courses*. The panel discussion will include a teacher, principal, student and parent from a district that is making a difference.

Your personal online conference planner

WSSDA's Annual Conference features a powerful new tool to help you plan your schedule, connect with colleagues, set up meetings, or leave comments for staff or presenters. To get started, go to wssda.org/conference, and click on "Schedule." At this site you can view the entire conference program. You may then choose to set up your

own sign-in and password. (Sign in via your Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn account, or sign in independently.) Once signed in, select the sessions, meetings and events you plan to attend and create your personal, printable online schedule. Your schedule lets you know who else is signed up to be in the sessions you choose, and allows you to use comment boxes to start discussions on topics of interest or sessions you plan to attend.

Give this powerful new tool a try before arriving at conference, and you are likely to be well-organized from the start.

Help plan your new WSSDA website

WSSDA is designing an all-new website which will be more user friendly and provide greater value for your online time. The state Department of Information Services, the vendor for the project, will host a booth at the WSSDA Annual Conference where members can test-drive the proposed new site and give input before it is finalized and launched. Look for the sign that says "Help build your new WSSDA website" near the WSSDA Services Booth in the Spokane Convention Center.

Webinar: Getting the Most from Conference

On Tuesday, Oct. 12, at 12 noon, WSSDA will host a webinar providing tips on how to plan your time to receive the most value possible from your attendance at the conference. Join Patty Wood, Kelso School Director and WSSDA Cadre Consultant and Sue

Kerber, Assistant Director of WSSDA's Leadership Development Services and Conference Director, for proven tips and must-do conference highlights.

The webinar will cover an overview of the conference, tips for connecting with colleagues, how to divide and conquer sessions with your board/superintendent team and much more. Watch your email for instructions on how to participate in the webinar.

Site visit: Spokane Skills Center

Experiential learning is the highlight of the site visit at the Spokane Skills Center. See how skills centers across the state are a vital link to student success. You will be amazed at how students are prepared to enter today's careers with a head start and articulation to future study. Explore how your district can access existing skills centers through branches and satellites and engage in conversations with students in the programs. The session is scheduled for Thursday from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Transportation will be provided.

Hotel conference rate ends October 22

Make hotel reservations by Oct. 22 to receive the conference rate; conference registration is required to receive hotel confirmation. Reservations must be made through the Spokane Housing Bureau (800.662.0084) until Oct. 22. Conference, hotel, and Spokane visitors information can be accessed via wssda.org/conference.



Direct



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Walla Walla Oct. 4
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Brewster Oct. 5
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Yakima Oct. 5
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Hoquiam Oct. 6
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Ephrata Oct. 6
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Lakewood Oct. 7
- WSSDA Legislative Committee, Olympia Oct. 9
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Brush Prairie Oct. 13
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Republic Oct. 13
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Spokane Valley Oct. 14
- State Board of Education, Tumwater Nov. 9-10
- Veterans' Day Nov. 11
- Leadership WSSDA, Spokane Nov. 16-17
- Early Bird Sessions, Spokane Nov. 17
- WSSDA Annual Conference, Spokane Nov. 17-20

For event details, visit wssda.org > Calendar.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- WEBINAR: GETTING THE MOST FROM CONFERENCE
Oct. 12, 12 noon
- NSBA T+L
Phoenix, Arizona: Oct. 19-21
- WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION FOR
MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION FALL CONFERENCE
Seattle: Oct. 30
- WSSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Spokane: Nov. 17-20
- NSBA FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK (FRN)
CONFERENCE
Washington D.C.: Feb. 6-8, 2011
- WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference
Olympia: Feb. 27-28, 2011
- NSBA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
San Francisco: April 9-11, 2011