



Direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

October 2011

Funding, Local Effort Assistance remain priorities

Full funding of basic education tops Legislative Assembly concerns for 2012

Delegates at the 2011 WSSDA Legislative Assembly adopted 47 new position statements, including proposals on funding priorities, delinking the state's high school assessment from graduation requirements, and seeking additional flexibility in times of reductions in force (RIFs).

In addition to the new statements, delegates approved four proposals as new additions to Standing Legislative Positions, amended two existing SLPs, and eliminated four SLPs that delegates believed had served their purpose and could be retired.

Combined, delegates rank ordered 88 position statements, with full funding of basic education (i.e., continuation of ESHB 2261 and SHB 2776 reforms) leading the list as the top priority for the association.

Other position statements that made the top 10 include developing sustainable revenue for education so school districts don't continue to be whipsawed by the state's economic woes, eliminating unfunded mandates, protecting levy equalization/local effort assistance, and funding all-day kindergarten.

New to the list this year was supporting WSSDA as a state agency with its universal dues structure, exempting school district fund balances in times of state financial distress, and allowing school districts to start a RIF process mid-year if the Legislature imposes retroactive cuts, as it did in the 2011 session.

Rounding out the top 10 are protecting levy authority and seeking to have all State Board of Education members be elected by WSSDA membership.



Pasco School Director Rubén Peralta makes a point during deliberations at the 2011 Legislative Assembly

A full list of legislative position statements, in priority order, is available online at wssda.org under Legislative > Our Positions and Priorities. The results of the advisory vote will be considered by the WSSDA Legislative Committee at its Oct. 15 meeting and by the WSSDA Board of Directors in November to establish the association's 2012 legislative priorities. Typically the board adopts a "short list" of the top priorities for the upcoming session.

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Special legislative session coming in November

For the second time in as many years, the governor is asking legislators to return prior to the start of the next regular legislative session to get a jump on cuts for the fiscal year ending June 30.

One week after hearing the September revenue forecast, and reviewing what programs and activities would be cut or eliminated with a reduction of just five percent or ten percent, Gov. Chris Gregoire called a special session for Nov. 28.

“Congressional gridlock, the European debt crisis and high unemployment continue to take their toll on consumer confidence and our state’s economy,” said Gregoire. “Once again, we are facing a budget shortfall and once again I’m calling the Legislature back into special session ... My only option is across-the-board cuts, and that option is unacceptable. Solving this budget crisis will require the Legislature to act.”

When the Legislature finished its regular session last May, it left a fund balance of \$738 million for the biennium ending June 30, 2013. One day after the governor signed the operating budget, the June revenue forecast dropped the projected balance to \$163 million. And a poor forecast from Sept. 15 is projecting a shortfall of \$1.4 billion.

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) says 63 percent of the budget is protected or really tough to get at. This includes about \$12.8 billion in basic education funding (e.g., general apportionment, special education, transportation, transitional bilingual, learning assistance program and gifted students, and institutional education funding). About \$1 billion is considered non-basic education.

The largest “discretionary” education funding is local effort assistance, which is about \$612 million for the two-year budget cycle. Other programs marked as non-basic education include all-day kindergarten, K-3 class size reduction, education reform programs, food services, statewide programs and summer vocational skills programs.

OFM plans to submit a list of possible program and activity cuts to the Legislature by the week of Oct. 24, with a goal of submitting a supplemental budget by the start of the special session. Budget leaders in the House and Senate have begun talking about the state’s financial problem and how to best resolve the budget gap.



L-to-R: Sen. Linda Evans Parlette (R-Wenatchee), Rep. Marcie Maxwell (D-Renton) and Rep. Ross Hunter (D-Medina) discuss budget challenges at the WSSDA Legislative Assembly in Pasco.

Assembly

continued from cover

In addition to the voting, pre-Assembly attendees heard from several distinguished speakers, including state Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn and a legislative panel including Senate Republican Caucus Chair Linda Evans Parlette, House Ways & Means Chair Ross Hunter, and House Deputy Majority Leader Marcie Maxwell.

Other speakers included Judy Hartmann, the Governor’s K-12 education policy adviser; Jim Crawford, senior budget assistant at OFM; Shawn Lewis, Chief Financial Officer at OSPI; Martin Mueller, OSPI Assistant Superintendent for Student Support; and John Williams, Project Manager for the K-12 Health Benefits Study at the state Health Care Authority.

Presentation materials, as well as audio clips when available, are provided on the WSSDA website under Legislative > Legislative Reports and Presentations.

For more information, contact WSSDA Governmental Relations Director Marie Sullivan at 360.252.3011 or M.Sullivan@wssda.org.

Legislative ‘Boot Camp’

A reminder that WSSDA is offering a “Legislative Boot Camp” during this November’s Annual Conference in Bellevue.

The boot camp sessions (provided as an early-bird on Thursday, Nov. 17), are configured to offer training on legislative advocacy skills for both new and veteran school board members.

Registration is available online at wssda.org/conference.

Board proposes change in officer positions

WSSDA's Board of Directors has agreed to put forward a proposal to consolidate the number of WSSDA officer positions, but is not ready to move the association's Legislative Assembly to coincide with the WSSDA Annual Conference in November.

During its August meeting and retreat, the board voted to ask the association's Delegate Assembly to amend the WSSDA bylaws to eliminate the officer position of vice president. The change would leave three officer positions in place—president, president-elect and immediate past president.

WSSDA members currently elect the positions of vice president and president-elect (the president-elect automatically becomes president in the following year). Under the proposed change, only the position of president-elect would be voted on.

WSSDA Immediate Past President Kevin Laverty (Mukilteo) noted that the policy review committee examined WSSDA governance this year and considered the four-year commitment an officer makes to the organization's leadership. "The committee recommended reducing that time commitment to engage more prospective candidates for WSSDA leadership positions and make it less onerous on individuals who agree to serve as officers," Laverty said. "The committee recommended that the VP position be dropped because the greater benefit would be to retain the immediate

past president of the association as an officer for his/her knowledge and experience leading the organization."

Proposed bylaws amendments and other association business will be considered by the Delegate Assembly in November.

Meanwhile, the Board of Directors decided against a suggestion that the WSSDA Legislative Assembly be moved from its traditional September time slot to be held in conjunction with the association's Annual Conference in November. The idea had been put forward as a potential way of reducing costs for the delegates and WSSDA while increasing participation in the Assembly. After a review of other states' practices and a discussion about the pros and cons, the board voted not to accept the proposal at this time. More consideration and input will be researched in 2012.

In other business, the board reviewed the preliminary WSSDA budget for 2012 (a budget that will not include a dues increase). The budget will be reviewed again in November and adopted in January. The board also adopted a new operating protocol and continued discussions about increasing board outreach to school directors in their Director Areas, particularly new school board members.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Nov. 17 at the Annual Conference in Bellevue.

WSSDA hires new research analyst

Alexandre Chateaubriand has been selected for the position of Research Analyst, a new position within WSSDA. Chateaubriand will be primarily working under Policy and Legal Services Director Stacia Hollar as well as assisting other departments of WSSDA as needed.

Chateaubriand most recently served as legislative intern to state Sen. Jim Kastama (D-Puyallup). He also served as the executive director of The Evergreen State College Law Society and has 3 years of experience in administration of student organizations. While at Evergreen he served as a representative in the student union as well as numerous boards and committees specifically tasked with reviewing school policy and providing recommendations.



Chateaubriand

Alexandre, or "Xandre" as he prefers, earned his B.A. in applied political science from The Evergreen State College with a special focus on state and local level advocacy. He can be reached

at 360.252.3014 or A.Chateaubriand@wssda.org.

WSSDA Webinar: School board governance

Anne Golden, Walla Walla School Director and member of the National School Boards Association Board of Directors, recently recorded a Webinar on "School Governance Reform: Challenges and Opportunities."

The 14-minute presentation delves into recent attacks on school board governance and explores how school boards can strengthen their effectiveness for student achievement and be strong advocates for local governance.

The Webinar can be accessed by visiting wssda.org > Resources > Webinars/Podcasts.

State Board of Education proposes changes for high school graduation requirements

The State Board of Education voted Sept. 15 to pursue changes to graduation requirements through a formal rule-making process. If adopted, the new administrative code would apply to the class of 2016, this year's 8th graders.

Signaling its intent to make changes to credits that "don't have a fiscal impact," the board is seeking input on its proposal to change the existing 20-credit requirements, including:

- Increase English from 3 credits to 4 credits
- Increase social studies from 2.5 credits to 3 credits, and require .5 credit of civics
- Make successfully passing Washington State History a non-credit requirement
- Clarify that the 2 credits of health and fitness includes .5 credits of health and 1.5 credits of fitness
- Create a "two for one" policy that would allow students taking a CTE-equivalent course to satisfy two graduation requirements while earning one credit

According to SBE staff, 29 school districts require fewer than four credits of English, 28 school districts require fewer than three credits of social studies, and 11 districts don't meet either of the proposed new thresholds.

The State Board is accepting written comments to the rule change through Nov. 4, 2011. Additionally, a public hearing is scheduled Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. at the SBE meeting in Vancouver (WA), at ESD 112 (2500 NE 65th St.). Written comments can be emailed to sbe@k12.wa.us or sent to Loy McColm, PO Box 47206, Olympia, WA 98504. Please send a copy of your comments to Marie Sullivan at m.sullivan@wssda.org.

For a link to the board's proposed rule change and to a list of districts not currently requiring the proposed number of credits, please see the online version of this article on the WSSDA website (wssda.org) under "News."

Nine file for SBE elections

Nine people have filed declarations of candidacy for State Board of Education positions that are up for election this year. The positions—one from each side of the state—will be voted on by school board members this fall.

Those who filed for Position 1 are Steve Dal Porto (Quincy), Carolyn Marsh (Burbank), Cynthia McMullen (Spokane Valley) and James R. Rigney (Yakima). Position 1, which covers the eastern region of the state, is currently held by Dal Porto.

Those who filed for Position 3 are Sally Brownfield (Shelton), Connie Fletcher (Issaquah), Tom. L. Hilyard (Tacoma), Kevin Laverty (Mukilteo) and Neal Porter (Seattle). Position 3, which covers the western region, is currently held by Fletcher.

There are five elective positions on the State Board, three from western Washington and two from the east side. The elections for Positions 1 and 3 are for four-year terms starting in January 2012.

According to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, which administers the election, ballots will be mailed on or before Oct. 31. Completed ballots will be due by Nov. 28, with results announced in early December. If a runoff is necessary, it will be conducted in December.

The OSPI ballot mailing will include information regarding the candidates. WSSDA will also prepare a voters guide that will be mailed to school directors and posted online.

WELCOME, NEW SCHOOL DIRECTORS!

Congratulations and welcome to the following new school directors:

Dawn Baergen, *Coulee-Hartline*
Lavella Lombardi, *Lamont*
R. John Sloan Jr., *Omak*
Dale McNitt, *Orient*

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

Robert Dove, *Coulee-Hartline*
Troy Clark, *Ferndale*
Michael Breckenridge, *Lamont*
Anna Rice, *Mukilteo*

Mikal Thornton, *Omak*
Lorna Dahl, *Orient*
David Garcia, *Yakima*

Leadership WSSDA: Not a series of lectures

Public education governance is complex and ever-changing. Keeping current requires ongoing learning and personal growth. Leadership WSSDA provides opportunities practice new ways of thinking and behaving.

Leadership WSSDA is your program – “by school directors and for school directors.” What does this mean? Participants:

- Develop a network of friends from throughout the state who challenge and inspire their thinking.
- Experience small-group discussions with political leaders, authors, businessmen, and grass-roots leaders.
- Actively participate in each meeting. Gain confidence by leading book discussions, introducing speakers, and activities, or facilitating session wrap-ups.
- Help tailor the program. The year-long program begins with goals and scheduled speakers, then participants design additional content to meet their needs.

Experienced school directors are invited to apply for the Leadership WSSDA Class of 2012 at wssda.org > Services > Leadership Development > Leadership WSSDA. The deadline for applications is Dec. 16, and the first session takes place Jan. 20-21, 2012. Expand your thinking and enhance your full complement of leadership skills in a small, supportive environment of colleagues. Join Leadership WSSDA!

Regional Meetings continue in October

As this issue of *Direct* went to press, the fall series of WSSDA Regional Meetings was in full swing. This round of meetings continues through Oct. 17, and some are preceded by a free, 90-minute



workshop on Online Board Self-Assessment and Board Consultancy.

The fall Regional Meetings include presentations on how districts can participate in a new state program designed to spur the creation of Innovation Schools and Innovation Zones. Other topics will include a recap of the Legislative Assembly and a preview of the 2012 legislative session.

Visit wssda.org/regionalmeetings for registration, meeting locations, driving directions, and agendas. Workshop information and registration is available at wssda.org/workshops. If you or your district are interested in hosting a future WSSDA Regional Meeting, please contact your WSSDA Board of Directors Representative or Terri Eixenberger in the WSSDA office (360.252.3002).

NEWS BRIEFS

The Tacoma School of the Arts (SOTA) is one of four public schools nationwide to receive a National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The award recognizes successful arts programs and the integration of the arts as an essential aspect of the school curriculum. SOTA, Carnation Elementary and Elk Plain School of Choice were submitted to the Kennedy Center's awards competition earlier this year after receiving top state honors from ArtsEd Washington and the Association of Washington School Principals as part of the inaugural State School of Excellence in Arts Education award. SOTA will be recognized at the WSSDA Annual Conference for its impressive achievement.

Jana Carlisle has been named the new executive director of the Partnership for Learning. Carlisle previously served as Deputy Director of State Services for the National Center on Education and the Economy's Board Examination Systems (BES) Project. She was also a consultant to Washington state

on the development of its education reform plan and served two years as a senior program officer and team leader at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on the College Ready Team.

Washington has been chosen as one of the lead states to develop the Next Generation Science Standards., which will define the content and skills students will need to learn from kindergarten through 12th grade. NGSS is a state-led process where members of 20 lead states will guide the standard writing process, gather and deliver feedback from state-level committees and come together to address common issues and challenges. Washington's selection was announced by Achieve, an education reform non-profit organization that is managing the NGSS process. Although Washington recently adopted new science learning standards, the NGSS will build on the current standards, similar to what is happening with the Common Core State Standards in English-language arts and math, State Superintendent Randy Dorn said.

Take Charge of Innovation in Your Schools!

WSSDA Annual Conference
Nov. 17-20 – Hyatt Regency Bellevue

This year's WSSDA Annual Conference challenges school directors to take charge of: leadership, governance and teacher quality. Breakout sessions include a focus on school improvement, student achievement and STEM. Learn what is new and innovative in small school districts as well as urban and suburban districts. Strengthen your understanding and sharpen your advocacy skills for better informed and effective leadership of education governance in your district.

There are numerous new and continuing features of Annual Conference that might be significant to you:

- Take advantage of the online scheduling program, SCHED, and design your personalized agenda to guide your learning.
- Boards' Night Out is Friday night, and you will want to make advance reservations for yourself or your group in Bellevue.
- Breakout sessions and events are all within the Bellevue Hyatt Hotel. Restaurants and amenities are all within walking distance.

Now more than ever

During challenging economic times, your district cannot afford mistakes that arise from uninformed and isolated decision making. Board members and superintendents need the networking with colleagues and timely information from best practices and experts in education governance. WSSDA's Annual Conference provides this opportunity. It is school directors' premier training and networking

opportunity each year and Washington's largest and most significant annual gathering of education policymakers.

Special Invitation

The WSSDA staff invites you to connect with them in the WSSDA Service Center. This is your Conference living room, located in front of the Evergreen Ballroom and across from the registration desk. Join us for coffee or tea and explore the latest innovations in services to meet your needs. Meet veteran and new staff members and re-connect with your peers, as we continue supportive relationships and strive to provide exceptional service.

The new WSSDA website holds resources to support your work and network you with other members through your online forum. The WSSDA Board Self-Assessment is an online service and provides you with reports to help you assess your goals and professional development. Sit down with us and discover services that are at your fingertips.

We have a gift for you. All members who sign up for the forum enter in a raffle to win a gift basket donated by the WSSDA staff filled with specialty items from our state!

Showcase Sessions

Learn from best practices from your colleagues across the state.

Auburn – A lighthouse district wants to share with you the success they have had through innovative leadership and partnerships.



Data-first – Join NSBA and WSSDA staff as they share about emerging training opportunities in the use of data for driving governance decisions.

Granite Falls – The nationally recognized “shop girls” will be sharing their award winning CTE project.

Everett – Learn how you can boost your high school graduation rates and refuse to leave any child behind.

Edmonds – School directors and staff will be sharing their success and showing you how you can ensure every student arrives for kindergarten academically, socially and emotionally ready for success.

Registration discounts are available through Oct. 14. Register today at wssda.org/conference.

Customize your Conference with SCHED

WSSDA's online Conference planner—SCHED—is a fun and easy way to build your own customized schedule for this year's program. View session details, search for sessions by strand, create your personalized schedule, or network with others planning to attend the same sessions as you. SCHED is available on the Web and as a mobile app by visiting schedule2011.schooldirectors.org.

Shape your association's future through WSSDA leadership elections



President-elect Mary Fertakis (Tukwila) will be installed as WSSDA President for 2012.

School directors from around the state will cast ballots in the association's annual elections this November. The elections, held in conjunction with the WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue, feature voting for WSSDA officers (president-elect and vice president) and numerous positions on the WSSDA Board of Directors and the association's standing committees.

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," said WSSDA President Deborah Heart (Goldendale). "This is your opportunity to set the direction of your association by selecting the leadership team for the coming year."



Elections for WSSDA President-elect and Vice President

The WSSDA Nominating Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Kevin Laverty (Mukilteo), nominated the following candidates for officer positions:

For President-elect:

Debra Long (Central Valley)

For Vice President:

Mari Taylor (Lake Stevens)

Debbie Winskill (Tacoma)

Officer candidate speeches will be presented during the General Session Luncheon of the WSSDA Annual Conference on Friday, Nov. 18, in Bellevue. 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 Saturday, 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 Saturday, Nov. 19. Voting for all WSSDA positions subject to election will take place during the caucuses. (See page 11 for a list of board and committee 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 Debra Long



Long

Debbie Long has been a member of the Central Valley School Board for the past eight years. During her tenure she has served as President, Vice President and legislative representative. Long served on the WSSDA Legislative committee from 2004 to 2010 and was 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 President-elect, and if elected, I will use this position to benefit our children.

Wow what a year it has been. Between the threat of elimination of WSSDA, the February retroactive cut and our legislators refusing to stand up for our constitution, it truly has been a whirl wind year. So, let's talk about a couple of these issues.

Right out of the gate in January our governor stated that WSSDA was not truly an essential agency. While we are not all on the same page regarding mandatory dues, I believe that WSSDA is essential and a vital agency that must continue in one form or another. This is our organization that helps us provide a unified voice. WSSDA empowers us to become better school board directors through education and advocacy.

If I thought January was a rude awakening, how about the February retroactive cut to education. While our legislators and governor will say this was not a retroactive cut, it is what it is. I don't care how you slice it, all of us signed contracts last May and approved our budgets in August. When we approved

our budgets, we clearly understood what our funding was to be for the upcoming year only to see that half way through they cut our funding. That is a retroactive cut.

While I cannot change what happened last year I believe we need leaders that are willing to step up to the plate and advocate for our children. As school board directors we have been 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. Local citizens have empowered us 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 President-elect.

As your WSSDA President-elect I will make it my mission to ensure that all school board members have the tools and resources they need to effectively govern their districts and champion public education. Under my leadership, I assure you that I will continue to advocate for our children and stand up for them so that their voice is heard. When decisions are being made that affect our student's learning, we will be involved and be sitting at the table. It will be my mission to ensure that all school board members are given the opportunity to participate in professional development so they can effectively govern their districts.

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 President-elect.

Candidate statements

Vice President Candidate Mari Taylor



Taylor

Mari Taylor has been a member of the Lake Stevens School District Board of Directors for the past 12 years. She has served as President, Vice President and Legislative Representative. Her employment experience includes work in early learning and higher education as well as education research. Mari currently serves on WSSDA's Legislative Committee as well as the Board of Directors for the Lake Stevens Education Foundation. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Society, Ethics and Human Behavior and a Master's degree in Policy studies, both from the University of Washington.

Candidate statement

Relevance. It's no coincidence that the keys to success in public education also apply to WSSDA: believing in our future; setting worthwhile goals; being undeterred by difficult circumstances, and dedication to becoming better and more effective. Despite the economic chaos of the last few years, both WSSDA and public education have accomplished a great deal, and have come a long way. I believe that's due, in large part, to our collective and relentless pursuit of academic success for all students. Our individual and collective efforts have had a positive impact in our children's future. Part of what has enabled that, for me at least, has been WSSDA's commitment to enable and further school directors' efforts to improve student learning.

I know this because I've personally benefitted from WSSDA's efforts. Throughout my twelve years on the Lake Stevens School Board, WSSDA has supported my learning and growth, and the learning and growth of my fellow board members. Taking a leadership role in WSSDA will enable me to reciprocate some of the great support I've received, and share what I've learned during my time working in schools and education. In WSSDA, I have gained so much through interaction with individuals at conferences and committee meetings; the impact that WSSDA has had on me, through those venues and others, has been extremely valuable. I would be grateful for the opportunity to give back to an organization that has provided me so much.

Education has been a theme throughout my life, and school board service has been a big part of that. In addition

to my board service, I've worked in higher education and in early learning programs. My education and research experience is relevant to many of the most pressing problems facing education today. I've had the privilege of collaborating with UW faculty and engaging in the larger community in discussions around education policy and its societal impacts, including community schools, labor issues, and family engagement. This work has reinforced my already strong faith in the potency of public education to empower and engage children and families, to improve their chances for academic success, and to provide a stable platform for equity and opportunity.

I believe that building meaningful relationships, within and among individuals and groups, fosters excellence in our public education system. This belief was reinforced by my recent work in Human Services, where I observed first-hand the considerable impact that education and academic collaboration has on individuals and families. Washington's strong business community, non-profits, service organizations, and culture of philanthropy provide a unique opportunity for public/private partnerships, and for creative solutions utilizing existing strengths and resources. WSSDA has an important role in all of this. WSSDA's opportunity – and responsibility – is to build on this fortunate foundation of those individual and group relationships, and make the most of the limited resources available.

Finally, I maintain high expectations for myself, and for others. And I believe that dedicated people, when working toward a clear and compelling goal, can make all the difference in the world. I'm continually amazed by the impact of committed individuals, and I believe that working together — against whatever daunting challenges face us — is the key to unlocking the success we all envision. WSSDA's primary mission of supporting school directors to improve student learning is more relevant today than ever, and it can be sustained — and flourish — through intentional engagement of all stakeholders. I have an unshakable belief that working together we can, and will, improve the learning environment and opportunities for our all our students.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and hopefully your vote.

Candidate statements

Vice President Candidate Debbie Winskill



Winskill

Debbie Winskill has served on the Tacoma School Board for 22 years. She has served as president of the board five times. During her tenure, Debbie has learned from a variety of school board members with a wide-range of opinions and specialties. While on the board, Debbie has helped hire five superintendents, participated in district-wide strategic planning, overseen numerous successful levies and bond issues, worked to improve district-wide test scores, and helped adopt a math curriculum that works. Debbie, a lifetime resident of Tacoma, has raised five children of her own and helped raise 24 foster children. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound with a degree in history. She is a tireless advocate for the arts as a pathway to learning within the community and the schools.

Debbie has significant experience with Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), serving the organization in various capacities including a five-year term on the legislative committee and a six-year term on the board of directors. During her service to WSSDA, she represented the organization for the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). She is now serving as chair of the WSSDA Interscholastic Activities Committee (IAC).

Debbie's community service is widespread and diverse. She was president of the Safe Street's Campaign, an anti-gang and anti-drug community group, which features an active student-component in our schools. She is a member of the Bates Technical College General Advisory Council, and served as its past chair. In addition, Debbie serves on two classical music boards (Tacoma Philharmonic and Second City Chamber Series).

Candidate statement

If elected as an officer of WSSDA, Debbie feels strongly it is important to keep in mind that the state is made up of 295 unique districts. Many issues are common to all, but one must remember to understand and advocate for the specific needs of each district. In the near future, she feels that WSSDA's most important tasks would be to educate the Legislature on the damaging nature of budget cuts (especially mid-year

budget cuts that harm all districts), and make sure that the State Board understands how its policies effect the day-to-day operations of all schools. The Washington State School Directors' Association has a unique function. They need to work with other educational entities to assure that local districts have a voice in the decisions being made at all levels. As a vital educational organization, WSSDA needs to clearly identify unfunded mandates and make every effort to free up revenue resources for educational uses that are better suited to individual districts. Debbie feels that it is the responsibility of WSSDA to network with all groups that are involved in education and let our voices be heard.

If elected as Vice President, Debbie looks forward to serving all the districts of Washington.

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 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 School District

- 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
- 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
- Resolutions Committee – one for 1-year unexpired 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 ten times a year 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Wenatchee (DA 7) Oct. 4
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Davenport (DA 10) Oct. 5
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Everett (DA 1) Oct. 6
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Cusick (DA 9) Oct. 6
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Issaquah (DA 2)* Oct. 10
- WSSDA Online Board Self-Assessment/Board
Consultancy Workshop, Issaquah Oct. 10
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Cle Elum (DA 8)* Oct. 11
- WSSDA Online Board Self-Assessment/Board
Consultancy Workshop, Cle Elum Oct. 11
- Open Government Workshop, Tacoma Oct. 12
- WSSDA Legislative Committee Oct. 15
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Vancouver (DA 6) Oct. 17
- WSSDA Online Board Self-Assessment/Board
Consultancy Workshop, Vancouver Oct. 17
- State General Election Nov. 8
- State Board of Education, Vancouver Nov. 9

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- OPEN GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP
Tacoma: Oct. 12
- WSSDA FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS
Twelve Locations: Through Oct. 17
- WSSDA ONLINE BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT/
BOARD CONSULTANCY WORKSHOPS
Issaquah: Oct. 10
Cle Elum: Oct 11
Vancouver: Oct. 17
- WSSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Bellevue Hyatt Regency: Nov. 17-20
- WSSDA/WASA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
Olympia: January 29 - 30, 2012
- NSBA FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK CONFERENCE
Washington D.C: Feb. 5-7, 2012