Dear Colleagues:

This will be my last Hotline message as WASA’s Executive Director. Serving you, our members, has been the highlight of my career. I was very hopeful when I made the retirement decision last year that the Legislature’s McCleary solution would significantly improve both the amount and equity of funding for our public schools. Unfortunately, that legislation appears to have left many school districts worse off than before, created many new layers of inequity, and has thrown all of you into a hot mess of collective bargaining with confusing and conflicting parameters.

In this context, I am reminded of the nonsensical administrative and classified salary allocations created in the aftermath of the Doran decision. When I first encountered those issues decades later, I couldn’t help but wonder what legislators were thinking when they put those formulas into law. There was no explanation for the wildly different amounts neighboring districts might receive through that allocation system. Having watched the McCleary debates unfold over the past few years, I now have a better understanding of how such decisions can be created.

It now falls to you, our members, to create coherence within this chaos and more importantly, to minimize the negative impacts on your students. While that task may seem daunting, I am confident that you will rise to that challenge. As you focus on making the new system work within your local community, please stay engaged with your colleagues around the state in search of improvements to achieve the vision that a student’s zip code should not determine their level of educational opportunity. It won’t be easy, but with consistent communication and coordinated efforts, you can be the leaders that show our policy makers how to achieve that vision.

In the midst of the challenges that lay ahead, please don’t lose sight of the persistent gap that exists in the achievement of our students based on economic status and racial background. While Washington educators should take pride in most aspects of our public education system, we should all take stock of what we have done, and the critical work that remains to close this persistent opportunity/achievement gap among our students.

The following chart was part of the report on Statewide Indicators of Educational System Health presented at the May, State Board of Education meeting in Yakima. It shows how Washington compares with other states in closing the NAEP 4th Grade Reading score gap between students who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch and those who do not qualify. It shows the change in that gap for each state between 2003 and 2017. The troubling fact is that the gap has actually grown by nearly 10 scale score points during that time. It is even more startling to see that Washington is second to last in the nation based on that measurement of improvement.

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While this is the worst trend within the core NAEP assessments, similar results have occurred with the gap in 4th Grade Math, as well as 8th Grade Math and Reading. The same can be said when comparing results based on race or ethnicity. Washington can and must do better in closing these gaps. My hope as I leave this work is that every educator in our state will make this their highest priority in the years ahead. Your leadership is absolutely critical if that hope is to be realized. Our children deserve nothing less.

**WASA President-elect Campaign**

The WASA President-elect campaign is underway. Krestin Bahr, Superintendent of Eatonville School District, and John Bash, Superintendent of Tumwater School District, are this year’s candidates. Electronic candidate brochures will be sent to WASA members mid-June. The candidates will make a presentation at the Honorary Awards Luncheon being held in conjunction with the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference on June 25, in Spokane. Electronic ballots will be sent to WASA Active members on August 1, and voting will be open until August 11.

**Upcoming Conferences**

**2018 WASA/AWSP SUMMER CONFERENCE**
June 24–26 | Spokane Convention Center, Spokane
Register and book your housing at www.awsp.org/sc18.

**2018 WASA INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE**
July 23–24 | DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Olympia
Register at www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming18.

**2018 WASA/OSPI SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**
August 2–3 | Hotel Murano, Tacoma
The New Director Preconference is August 1.
Register and learn more at www.wasa-oly.org/SPED18.

**2018 WASA FALL CONFERENCE**
October 9 | TBD, Seattle Airport

**Welcome Joel Aune, WASA’s New Executive Director**

Joel Aune, Superintendent of Snoqualmie Valley, was selected in March as Bill Keim’s replacement beginning July 1, 2018. Onboarding work has begun for Joel to assume his new role as WASA’s executive director. Joel is looking forward to his new position and serving WASA members.
Washington’s Representatives on the AASA Governing Board

Elections were held in May to fill a new eastside position and an open westside position on the AASA Governing Board. WASA recently qualified for a fourth position on the AASA Governing Board. There are now two eastside and two westside positions. The new eastside position has been filled by Michelle Price, Superintendent of NCESD 171. Krestin Bahr, Superintendent of Eatonville School District, will fill the open expiring westside representative position. Both positions have a three-year term beginning July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2021.

Michelle Price
Superintendent of NCESD 171

Krestin Bahr
Superintendent of Eatonville School District

Dr. Bill Keim Retires June 30

Bill Keim, current WASA Executive Director, will retire on June 30, 2018. Bill has enjoyed 35 years of leadership and experiences in education, including international work, and over 20 years with Washington public schools. Bill’s success is due to his understanding the needs of districts large and small, suburban and rural, as well as eastside and westside Washington. Besides Bill’s broad understanding of Washington’s educational challenges and opportunities, he has built strong working relationships with legislators and has been actively involved in the legislative policy area. Bill will be remembered for his excellent connections with our education partners, collaborative leadership, and effective interpersonal and communication skills. We thank Dr. Bill Keim for his service to WASA and the students in Washington State. We wish him the best as he moves to new opportunities in retirement.

A joint retirement celebration for both Dr. Bill Keim and Gary Kipp, Executive Director of AWSP, is planned during the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference. The event will be held on Monday, June 25, from 4:30–6 p.m. at the DoubleTree Hotel in Spokane, during the WASA President-elect Candidates’ Reception.

Bill Keim Presents the WASA/SCR’s Award of Merit to Selah School District Superintendent Shane Backlund

Consider applying or encouraging a worthy candidate to apply for Washington’s 2019 Superintendent of the Year.

To apply, the online application can be found on the AASA website at http://soy.aasa.org/. To be considered for Washington’s SOY process, the deadline to apply is October 1, 2018. A panel of WASA judges will then determine Washington’s SOY for 2019. His or her name will be submitted to AASA to be considered for the 2019 AASA National Superintendent of the Year, which will be announced at the 2019 AASA National Conference on Education, February 14–16, 2019, in Los Angeles, California.

For more information on the Superintendent of the Year program and process, go to http://soy.aasa.org/.

For questions on Washington’s SOY process, contact Shari Parsons at sparsons@wasa-oly.org or 360.943.5717.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR WASA PROFILE

Just as districts around the state are asked for staff and student demographics, WASA often receives requests regarding our members’ gender, race, and ethnicity. This information is helpful when specific invitations are made for members to serve on committees, task forces, or workgroups. In addition, we are also asked for a mix of geographic area (east/west) and/or size of district (small to large) as needed. Please take a moment to update your membership profile to assist us in appropriately responding to the requests we receive. Go to WASA’s website at www.wasa-oly.org to log in/My WASA Profile/Update. You may also upload a photograph onto your profile.
WASA Honorary Awards

This spring, WASA regions throughout Washington honored and recognized outstanding administrators and community members who have made extraordinary contributions to public education. Below is a sampling of photos from a number of award presentations.

The statewide awards (Golden Gavel, Barbara Mertens Legacy, Service to WASA, and WASA Leadership) will be presented at the WASA Honorary Awards luncheon on June 25, in conjunction with the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference in Spokane.

2018 Dr. Howard M. Coble Scholarship Recipient Announced

The highly successful school superintendent, Dr. Howard M. Coble served WASA as Executive Director from 1980 to 1991. Throughout Howard’s career, he was a mentor for educational leaders across the state. Howard passed away in October 2016, at the age of 91. After his passing, the WASA Board authorized the creation of a scholarship in Howard's name. The Dr. Howard M. Coble Scholarship was designed to assist talented, underrepresented educators to pursue graduate studies that prepare them for central office leadership positions.

This year, a committee of WASA members from across the state worked to design the parameters of this new scholarship. As the scholarship was launched in February, the committee anticipated 4–5 applications to be received. From the 17 outstanding applications that were submitted, Trevor Greene from Highline Public Schools was selected as the recipient of the 2018 Dr. Howard M. Coble Scholarship. He was presented the award during the WASA/AWSP/WSSDA Equity Conference luncheon on May 23.

Trevor has served as an educator for twelve years as a successful principal in multiple rural settings, and a principal supervisor in a large urban district where over 100 languages are spoken. He plans to continue to serve in leadership capacities in districts that are committed to addressing the challenges around equity.
There's still time to register!

Visit www.awsp.org/sc18 for registration and conference details.

Registration is open for the 2018 WASA/OSPI Special Education Conference being held August 2–3, at Hotel Murano, Tacoma. The New Director Preconference will be held August 1.

Join with special education directors from across the state, OSPI and ESD staff, and others to gain the most up-to-date information from experts in the field.

KEYNOTES

The powerful and informative line-up of keynote speakers include:

- Temple Grandin, Ph.D.: Speaker, Author, and Philosophical Leader of Autism Advocacy Movements
- Carol Decker: Survivor, Author
- Johnny Collette: Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, US Department of Education
- Mary Brownell, Ph.D.: Professor of Special Education, University of Florida; Director, CEEDAR Center

NEW DIRECTOR PRECONFERENCE

New directors, please join us on August 1, for an all-day preconference at Hotel Murano, Tacoma.

The preconference is designed specifically for new directors—new to the position, or new to Washington State—to provide basic-level information needed to be successful in the first few months on the job.

Space is limited, and an additional registration fee applies.

LEARN MORE

Visit www.wasa-oly.org/SPED18 to register and view additional conference details.
Spotlight on a WASA Diamond Level Sponsor: Hill International, Inc.

Hill is dedicated to creating exceptional twenty-first century schools that make a difference in the life of every student.

Hill International, Inc. (Hill) proudly provides an experienced multidisciplinary team of pre-bond planning, project management, and construction management services to K–12 education clients in the state of Washington from offices in Spokane and Seattle. Hill opened these two offices with a vision of supporting Washington school districts with their program and project needs. Hill has provided project management services to more than 30 Washington school districts over 18 years. As trusted construction consultants to educators worldwide, Hill offers construction experts who are committed to meeting the unique needs of school districts at every level and comprehensive construction management services that maintain the highest standards of quality while delivering projects on time and within budget—without surprises.

Hill is the largest “pure” construction management firm in the United States and has chosen to focus services solely on you, the owner. As a leader in the construction management field, Hill has participated in over 10,000 projects with a total value of $500 billion. Washington offices have participated in more than 430 projects for public agencies in traditional and alternative delivery methods, ranging in value from $10,000 to $3 billion. Successful program and project management demands diligence to detail, a service-oriented approach, and proactive management by professionals who have the experience, skills, and expert technical knowledge to support complex project demands. Hill professionals have seasoned, hands-on experience in the design and construction industry, granting them the practical knowledge needed to assist with the effective management of school district’s capital projects.

**K–12: A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS**

The needs of local school districts vary widely, and Hill offers customized project and construction management services tailored to meet individual district goals. Some districts are grappling to quickly build quality new schools to accommodate explosive enrollment rates. Others are faced with the daunting task of renovating decade-old buildings into schools with twenty-first century learning environments that support current educational curriculum. Districts also must modernize their buildings for student safety and to upgrade to current building and energy codes. With the uncertainty of state funding, districts must rely on passing local bonds and levies to fund their capital programs. Hill’s team manages your capital improvement program with the understanding that the money entrusted to the district by the community is a long-term commitment to keeping schools strong and students safe. The staff understands the need to stretch those precious capital dollars to make the greatest impact on facilities that improve your students’ learning environments.

Hill’s K–12 team combines the right combination of construction experience and project control systems to best manage the many critical interfaces between project elements, all the while reporting to the district. Hill PMs and support staff prepare cogent analyses and recommendations so the work can proceed with minimal impact to your project goals. Hill’s role is to be part of the solution, not just to highlight the problem. Hill's resume of K–12 projects in Washington includes new construction, modernization, and addition projects as well as many facility upgrades for safety and replacement of information technology systems on occupied and unoccupied campuses. Hill has served as the owner's advocate, program manager, project manager, and specialty consultant to school districts statewide.

Contact WASA

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Past President: Lois Davies, Pateros
Secretary: Vicki Bates, Auburn
Treasurer: Corine Pennington, Puyallup