

DECEMBER 2022



NEWS

The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. For those who want a bit more detail, links to additional information are embedded in the text of this publication. We hope you find WASA News to be an efficient way to keep abreast of new information, emerging issues, and timely resources. Be reminded that previous issues of the WASA News can be found on our website.



"Relationships and belonging are the most effective antidote to trauma. But those relationships must be long term. It's not enough to be nice to children. They (children) have to have places to attach to, and people to attach to who will be in their lives over a long period."

—Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, 2022 WASA Winter Conference

WASA Friends,

This year's Winter Conference featured a power-packed lineup of speakers including Tim Shriver, Linda-Darling Hammond, and Marc Brackett—all three of whom received rave reviews from conference participants. My appreciation and compliments to Mike Nelson, Kim Fry, and the WASA team for putting together such an extraordinary morning of learning for the 150+ WASA members in attendance.

While there were innumerable takeaways for me as a learner-leader, I'm going to underscore a major theme of Dr. Darling-Hammond's presentation that I found particularly valuable. Dr. Darling-Hammond reinforced and deepened our understanding of a foundational element of educating children and young people that we already know: that learning is not just academic—that social-emotional development and well-being are also requisite; that students' perceptions about their own ability influence learning; that trauma and adversity affect learning; and that relationships and belonging are the most effective antidote to trauma. Most, if not all educators know that relationships are the foundation upon which wellness, growth, and learning are achieved. Dr. Darling-Hammond reinforced this fundamental in a strong and compelling fashion.

Tending to relationships may be more important today than ever before. There is no doubt the stress and trauma that students have experienced the past three years continues to have a material impact on their mental health and academic growth. Now is the time to double down on relationships and reinforce with principals and teachers that investing time and energy in building relationships and creating a culture of belonging will pay big dividends for students when it comes to their emotional well-being and academic progress. Two brief videos shared by Dr. Darling-Hammond, **The Power of Relationships in Schools** and **Building a Belonging Classroom** illustrated this point beautifully.

Relationships matter. Educators have known this, intuitively, for decades. There is now a strong and deep body of research that fully supports this notion. As you continue to lead in the post-pandemic context, rebuilding or strengthening your district's capacity to develop a deep sense of connectedness and belonging with and among students will be key to ensuring they are poised to achieve their potentials socially, emotionally, and academically.

Thanks to each of you for your amazing leadership. The students need you, their teachers, and one another **now**—more than ever before.

Respectfully,



Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director



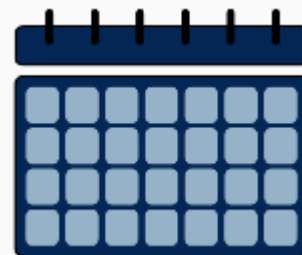
WA Superintendent of the Year Announced!

Congratulations to **Adam Swinyard, Superintendent, Spokane PS** for being named Washington Superintendent of the Year 2023. Swinyard will attend the AASA National Conference on Education in San Antonio, TX this February and be automatically eligible to be nominated as National Superintendent of the Year. You can see all past WA Superintendents of the year **[here](#)**.

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS

- **WIL: Strategies for Building Unity** | December 14 | Virtual
- **Women in Leadership: Women Who Lead** | January 6 | Virtual
- **Zooming In & Out of Inclusionary Practices** | January 11, February 6, & March 27 | Virtual
- **Legislative Conference** | February 26–27 | Olympia
- **The Lighthouse Effect Book Study** | May 4, May 18, & June 1 | Virtual

View all WASA year-long Academies **[here](#)**!



View the full WASA
Calendar **[here](#)**



Summer Conference: Call for Presenters!

Deadline to Apply: **December 15, 2022**

Do you have any ideas for **WASA/AWSP's Annual Summer Conference** this June? We are seeking proposals for topics covering:

- Academic success • Belonging and Inclusion
- Culture • Effective teams
- Innovation • Social Emotional Learning
- Systems and Operations

Apply here! Contact **Kim Fry** with any questions about the application process.

Member Survey Coming in January!

At WASA, our aim is to serve, support, and provide leadership to association members—individually and collectively. A survey of the membership will be launched next month, the purpose of which will be to gauge member perceptions and quantify member needs. Information garnered through the survey will inform future planning to ensure the service, support, and leadership we provide meets your needs. Thank you in advance for taking a bit of time to share your thoughts and feedback—watch for the survey next month!



Zooming In & Out of Inclusionary Practices

January 11, February 6, & March 27 | 4–6 p.m.

In celebration of #InclusiveSchoolsWeek, we're excited to share this free opportunity for educators and families to learn from expert practitioners **Shelley Moore** and **Katie Novak** in a three-part virtual series, Zooming In & Out on Inclusionary Practices. Visit **our site** for more information!

Applications Open for Environmental Youth Summit

Applications due: **December 23rd at 4 p.m.**

Showcase your students' work at The Environmental and Sustainability Literacy Summit this February. The Summit invites student teams from across the state to bring project displays and will have the opportunity to present their projects to Washington State department and agency leaders, state policy leaders, and legislators. Keynote speakers include Governor **Jay Inslee** and Superintendent of Public Instruction **Chris Reykdahl**.

The summit will take place at the New Market Skills Center in Tumwater on **February 23rd from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.** Please reach out to **Molly Griffiths** for any additional information or questions. Learn more **here**.

Women Who Lead Half Day Virtual Conference

January 6 | 8:00–11:30 a.m.

\$199 (includes shipped copy of **Women Who Lead**)

Great for aspiring and current building and district leaders.

The Lighthouse Effect Book Study

May 4, 18, & June 1 | 4:00–5:00 p.m.

\$79 WASA Members \$99 Non-members (includes shipped copy of **The Lighthouse Effect**)

Accelerate **WASA/AWSP Summer Conference** learning by diving into the keynote speaker's book! Author **Steve Pemberton** will join us on for the final book study session.

WASA/AWSP Summer Conference: Lighting the Way for Leadership

June 25–27 | Spokane Convention Center

Attendance at the Summer Conference is a wonderful way to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2022–23 school year and gain insights and strategies for the year ahead.

Registration opens January 24.

TIME TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

The 2022 elections have been certified, the last quarterly revenue forecast has been issued by the Economic & Revenue Forecast Council, and Governor Inslee is set to release his 2023–25 Operating Budget request soon (be on the lookout for a summary in an interim issue of *This Week in Olympia*). All the pieces are being put in place for the stretch run before the 2023 Legislative Session begins; legislators convene on January 9 for the 105-day budget-writing session.

The November revenue forecast was a mixed bag. Positively, state revenues continue to be collected above projections. Unfortunately, the rate of growth is slowing and fears of a recession and an economic slowdown clouds the forecast. While revenues are projected to increase by 3.5 percent in the next biennium, if you adjust for inflation, revenues are estimated to decrease by 2.6 percent. This will limit legislators' ability to fund their priorities—and our priorities—even with significant currently available revenue. Revenues are even greater if you include the state's healthy reserves (at least \$5.0 billion); however, with an estimated \$1.5–\$2.0 billion required inflationary adjustment for K–12, increased caseload costs, approval of new state employee collective bargaining agreements, and action on over \$10.0 billion in agency requests, available revenue will not go very far. Further complicating the situation is the constitutional requirement to have a balanced budget over a four-year period—both the 2023–25 and 2025–27 biennium.

Given the budget situation, competition for revenue will be fierce—and it is incumbent on all school administrators to be fully engaged with your local legislators if we expect to succeed. Legislators need to hear “your story” and understand your needs. If you do not advocate for your students, your staff, and your district, who will? To assist in your advocacy efforts, WASA will continue to provide resources and support, including our recent two-part “Finding Your Voice” advocacy webinar. Part I is a comprehensive review of **WASA's 2023 Legislative Platform** and Part II focuses on how to effectively engage with your legislators. (The presentation slides and recording of both webinars are available on the WASA website: **Part I** and **Part II**). Also, when session begins, be sure to follow WASA's weekly legislative newsletter (**TWIO**) and legislative **podcast**.

We hope that you will join with WASA—and our education association colleagues—as we raise our collective voices in unison to fight for our public schools. YOU are WASA—and we can't do it without you.



2023 WASA • WSSDA • WASBO

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL

LEADING THE CONVERSATION *featuring Shankar Vedantam*

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 26 | 1–6 P.M.
SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DAY ON THE HILL
FEBRUARY 27 | AT THE CAPITOL

February 26 and 27 | Olympia

Join WASA, **WSSDA**, and **WASBO** at our annual Legislative Conference in Olympia this February! Featuring guest speaker, **Shankar Vedantam**, this is your opportunity to hear updates on our shared legislative priorities, the current education budget and policy landscape, and how to effectively advocate for our collective needs. The following day, we will meet at the Capitol to meet with Legislators. **Register today!**

Literacy Professional Development

OSPI has partnered with **Glean Education** to offer free professional development (PD) for the 2022–23 school year. The PD is available to all interested individuals (classified, certified, and administrative educators). The goal of the training initiative is to build staff capacity and provide educators with the knowledge and tools to enable them to **effectively implement Structured Literacy within an MTSS Framework**. The professional development opportunity includes (clock hours are free): On-Demand Courses (18 clock hours)

- Expert Webinar Series (9 clock hours)
- A free practicum experience will be available in January for individuals whom have completed the coursework (more information to come)

Learn more with this **single-page flyer** or **extended informational flyer**.

Are Your CBAs Current with the Law?

As you begin to prepare for another bargaining cycle, it is considered best practice to have current CBAs reviewed by legal counsel. Much has changed over the past few years, and there may be portions of your current CBAs that are not current with the law or contain problematic language.

Transitional Certificates and Out-of-Endorsement Assignments

For districts employing educators holding a transitional certificate: PESB issued a policy change in transitional certificates intended to provide flexibility. Individuals may maintain employment under a transitional certificate until their expired one is renewed. For more details on transitional certificates as a tool for educator certificate renewal, visit **frequently asked questions**.

KNOW YOUR ASSOCIATION

WASA STAFF

The **WASA team** is comprised of eleven individuals, committed to serving and supporting the association's 1,900 members. Like a school district, the support staff who work behind the scenes are essential to WASA and our mission. They: ensure day to day operations run efficiently and smoothly; are responsive to member needs, inquiries, and requests for assistance; and provide exemplary customer service and support through timely and courteous responsiveness that is substantive and trustworthy.

The support staff includes:

Shari Parson | Executive Assistant
Lisa Gehman | Professional Learning/Membership Assistant
Bella Troiani | Communication and Production Support
Sheila Chard | Administrative Assistant
Eve Johnson | Business and Infrastructure Manager
Kaley VonVolkli | Accounting Assistant

The Executive Team at WASA includes:

Joel Aune | Executive Director
Mike Nelson | Assistant Executive Director, Professional Learning
Kim Fry | Professional Learning Coordinator

Dan Steele | Assistant Executive Director, Government Relations

Andy Wolf | Assistant Executive Director, Member Services & Admin Operations

The WASA team considers it an honor and a privilege to serve you. Each staff member sees his or her role in supporting school district leaders as a unique opportunity to make a difference—for school districts, school district leaders, and most importantly, the students you serve.



ESSENTIAL EQUITY CONVERSATIONS



School district leaders are called upon to create systems and learning environments where each and every student can learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations. This is the core of your work. Although each school district's journey toward educational equity varies based on its unique district and community assets and challenges, initiating and advancing substantive conversations is fundamental to effective and principled school district leadership.

Each month during the coming year, WASA will offer a prompt that you might employ to initiate or continue conversations with and among students, staff, school boards, and/or your community. Two forms of the prompt will be offered, so that you are able to differentiate based upon the uniqueness of the group or community, as you step into these essential conversations:

- ***What data are you analyzing to identify or monitor gaps between student groups?***
- ***What data are you analyzing to identify or monitor equity gaps?***

While WASA members possess an abundance of strategies and protocols in their repertoire to facilitate focused and productive conversations, some simple, yet effective protocols can be found [here](#).

No matter where things stand in your district and community today, the important thing is to start or continue, and persist in your efforts to keep the focus on the students—ALL students—under your care.

RESOURCES



WASA has developed a storehouse where resources from past issues of WASA News are **readily accessible**. This month's featured resources include a focus on equity and social emotional learning:

EQUITY

From Institute of Education Sciences

- [Newsletter: Advancing Equity to Improve Outcomes for Students](#)

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

From Ed Week

- [Building an Effective SEL Program—Lessons From Three Districts](#)
- [Make SEL Work by Applying These Six Best Practices](#)
- [What Educators Are the Biggest Barriers to Effective SEL](#)
- [Why It's So Hard to Weave Social Emotional Learning Into Academics](#)

OTHER

- [Resources for Black History Month](#) (Common Sense Education)
- [MLK and Black History Month Resources](#) (Newseum)
- [These 3 Strategies Could Help Avert School-based Violence](#) (K-12 Dive)
- [Resources for Vapor Products](#) (DOH)

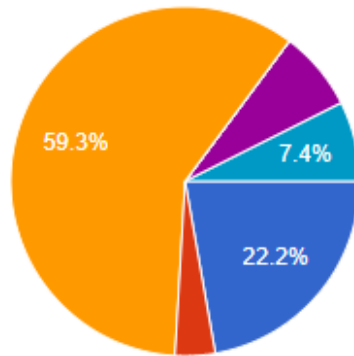


Remembering John J. Fotheringham

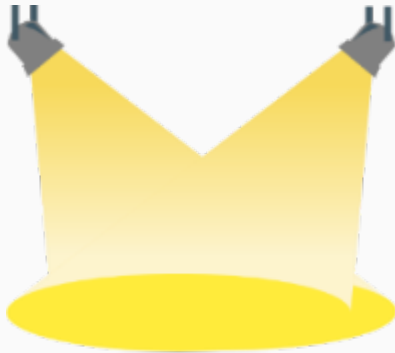
Former WASA Executive Director, **John Fotheringham**, passed away on November 23, 2023 at the age of 89. Dr. Fotheringham served as Associate Executive Director from July 1986 to June 1991 and then Executive Director from July 1991 to July 1997. He was a truly legendary figure among superintendents and other school district leaders with whom he came in contact over his long and storied career. WASA extends our most sincere condolences to John's family and friends. Specific information concerning a Celebration of Life event being planned by the family for next spring will be forthcoming. [Read the full obituary here.](#)

We Asked, You Answered!

Here are the results from last month's poll. Our members value their family the most!



- Cooking a large feast
- Drinking hot cider by the fire
- Spending time with family
- The pumpkin patch, obviously
- WSU Football
- Scary movies



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A WASA SPONSOR?

Contact **Mike Nelson**



D.A. Davidson

This month's **Sponsor Spotlight** features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**D.A. Davidson**. We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their links to learn more about them. View all of our amazing Diamond-level sponsors on [our website](#).

AASA CORNER

THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

- AASA is proud to announce that **David R. Schuler** has been selected by the organization's executive committee as its new executive director, replacing Daniel A. Domenech, who will retire in February 2023. [Read more.](#)
- AASA Issues [Statement On Latest NAEP Results](#).
- Register Early & Save—[AASA National Conference on Education](#) | **February 16–18, 2023** | San Antonio, TX
- [AASA Quarterly Federal Policy Update](#)
- New Dept of Energy Grants Available to K-12 Schools. The Department of Energy has kicked off an \$80 million grant program for critical energy upgrades in America's highest-need K-12 school facilities. [Learn more.](#)
- [Grants Open for Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities](#)

- [Guidance to Help Reduce Influenza in Schools](#)



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