



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bremerton Superintendent Dr. Aaron Leavell elected WASA President-Elect

Leavell to lead statewide professional association for school administrators

OLYMPIA—The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) is pleased to announce that members have elected Dr. Aaron Leavell, superintendent of the Bremerton School District, as WASA President-elect for 2020–21. Leavell will assume the presidency in July 2021, following the term of the current president, Brian Talbott, superintendent, Nine Mile Falls School District.

Leavell has been an active member of WASA since 2009 and served in a variety of association positions, including Superintendent Component Chair-elect; WASA Board of Directors; WASA Professional Standards and Ethics Committee; and WASA Region 114 President.

“We congratulate Aaron Leavell on being elected to serve as WASA President-elect. Aaron’s stellar work as a school district leader during his career, including the past seven years as superintendent of the Bremerton School District, has earned the respect of WASA members across the entire state,” said Joel Aune, executive director of WASA. “In addition to his work in the Bremerton School District, Aaron has been actively involved in WASA for the past 10 years serving the association and our membership in a variety of roles,” he said.

“Aaron is an accomplished leader who approaches the work from a positive stance. He has a heart for students and is committed through his words and actions to serve their best interests. His dedication to students, along with a hopeful and optimistic view of school district leadership, are much-needed qualities during these extraordinary times in K-12 education,” added Aune. “Aaron is realistic about the challenges that lie ahead but also fully embraces the responsibility of school leaders to express a vision of hope. There is no doubt that Aaron will

represent WASA and the WASA membership in a credible, competent, and trustworthy fashion as he serves as President-elect in the coming year and as President in 2021–22.”

Aaron Leavell said, “I am honored and thrilled to be WASA’s incoming President-elect. I am grateful to our association members for believing in me to support the critical work of the WASA executive staff, to lead our board of directors, and continue our journey for educational excellence, equity, and justice for all students in public education across the state of Washington.”

“These are undoubtedly, the most challenging times for all educators serving amidst an international pandemic and the urgency to understand and address systemic racism in our school systems,” he added. “Thank you for the opportunity to lead and serve.”

As WASA president, Leavell’s goals are to:

- Prioritize his leadership to reflect an intentional effort of the inclusivity of all classifications of members at the district level while simultaneously growing enrollment numbers in WASA.
- Focus energies on equity and trust initiatives throughout the membership for leaders in districts large and small, urban to rural, north and south, and east to west.
- Advocate for WASA’s core beliefs and platforms with legislators from across the state, incorporating input from the vastly different districts served.
- Build upon the tremendous relationships established with other state organizations such as AWSP, WSSDA, WASBO, and the many supportive sponsors WASA rely upon in order to continue the challenging work and professional development.
- Honor the past and present accomplishments of the WASA organization and its leadership and look to increase the future sphere of influence on Washington State’s public education system.

Leavell received his Doctorate and superintendent credentials from the University of Washington; a Master of Arts from Seattle Pacific University; a Bachelor of Arts from Central Washington University; and an Associate of Arts from Olympic Community College.

Leavell has worked in the Bremerton School District beginning in 1997, where he served as superintendent; assistant superintendent; principal and assistant principal, Bremerton High School; and assistant principal and teacher, Bremerton Junior High. Prior to returning to the Bremerton School District in 2012, Leavell served as director of secondary education in the North Kitsap School District from 2009-12.

About the Washington Association of School Administrators

The Washington Association of School Administrators (<http://www.wasa-oly.org>) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With more than 1,600 members, membership is open to all

education administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.

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