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WASA Names Joel Aune New Executive Director

Snoqualmie Valley SD Superintendent to lead statewide association

OLYMPIA — The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) announced today that **Joel Aune**, superintendent of Snoqualmie Valley School District, will serve as the association’s new executive director beginning July 1. His selection was confirmed today by the association’s board of directors.

Aune will replace **Dr. Bill Keim**, who will retire this summer after leading the association for the past five years. As executive director, Aune will oversee a staff of 11 based in Olympia and will lead an organization focused on both K–12 education policy issues and the leadership development of Washington’s public school administrators.

“The Washington Association of School Administrators will be in great hands with Joel Aune serving as its executive director,” said Keim. “Joel is an outstanding leader with broad range of experience in school districts across the state. That experience will help him better understand and support our state’s educational leaders, who serve in a wide variety of contexts.”

Over the course of his 35-year educational career, Aune has served as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent in both small and medium-sized school districts in Washington. His work reflects a mix of the state’s own diverse school populations, with experience ranging from ethnically diverse and high poverty districts to affluent and high performing districts.

“I am thrilled to have been selected to succeed Bill Keim as WASA’s executive director. I have an immense respect for Bill and the WASA organization, and it is my intent to work with the staff to build upon all that has been accomplished during his distinguished tenure as the Executive Director,” said Aune. “It is a distinct honor to lead an organization whose membership is comprised of the best and

brightest educational leaders in the country. I look forward to working with the WASA staff and the membership to advance public education in our state—all in the interest of serving the 1.1 million students who attend our schools.”

Aune, 57, has served as superintendent for the Snoqualmie Valley School District for the past 13 years. Prior to that, he was superintendent of the Colfax School District for seven years. He also previously served as an elementary principal in the Walla Walla School District and as an assistant principal and teacher in the Cashmere School District.

In addition to his district leadership roles, Aune has held a variety of external leadership positions in the state’s education community, including chair of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA), Superintendents’ Advisory Committee (2016–present), and as WASA president (2011–12).

Aune earned his superintendent’s credentials from Washington State University. He holds a master’s in educational administration from Central Washington University and a bachelor of arts in reading and mathematics from Eastern Washington University.

Aune is married and has three adult children and three grandchildren.

“The WASA Board of Directors could not be more pleased in the selection of Joel Aune to succeed Bill Keim as executive director. His demonstrated leadership and involvement in WASA for nearly two decades will make this transition seamless,” said **Dr. Steve Webb**, WASA president and superintendent, Vancouver Public Schools.

“Joel’s passion for chasing excellence is contagious and we look forward to him leading WASA to new heights in the years to come.”

About the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA):

WASA (www.wasa-oly.org) is a non-profit organization committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful, valuable training, support, and resources. WASA also strives to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. Membership is open to education administrators in Washington state.