

Wasa HOTLINE

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From the President



Brian Talbott
WASA President

WASA Friends and Colleagues,

If you are reading this message, CONGRATULATIONS ... you survived!

Although I am writing this in early June, by the time you read it, your seniors will have walked across the real or virtual stage; your teachers and support staff will have left for the summer; and, hopefully, you will have had at least a few glorious moments to catch your breath. Despite the fact that I lived it also, I stand in awe of your individual and our collective accomplishments. As providers of hope, equity, and equality in educational opportunities, I tip my hat to the lot of you.

During my president-elect speech, a looooooong two years ago, I shared my personal attachment and history with WASA. From a very young age, I knew of WASA; however, I had no idea what the acronym meant. WASA was a “summer vacation” where as kids we ate our meals in burger joints, spent time in the hotel’s pool, and ran through the vendor area with our newly collected treasures tucked into plastic bags with yarn cinch handles. At that tender age, WASA was merely a playful getaway in June.

While those youthful memories of our organization remain etched in my mind, the significance of WASA is far more expansive to me as a veteran educator. I recently completed my sixteenth year as a superintendent and my twenty-first as a school district administrator. Throughout that time, I have been an active member of WASA. Although I have served in several roles within the organization, my duties this past year as both an acting district superintendent and association president have broadened my perspective as to how WASA represents and supports us. Perhaps this has never been truer than in this particularly unique and challenging year. Sure, the three pillars associated with

WASA have been *Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy*. I saw these words in action well before this year and I certainly felt the presence of them at those times when I have needed support and guidance. Regretfully, I never paid enough homage to the fact that WASA is about so much more than its pillars. I am proud that WASA and the Board of Directors acknowledged in tangible ways, the importance of *Equity* as another foundational aspect of our commitment to this ideal.

If you think about your role and your district during this polarizing year, you know how and where each battle scar developed on your administrative body. Now, multiply your concerns, issues, and burdens by 295 districts and nine ESD’s. Clearly, WASA is OUR partner, champion, encourager, buffer, teammate, counselor, cheerleader, coach, and friend.

For fifty years, WASA has been all of these things to its membership. Throughout that time the trends, topics, and trip hazards have vastly changed. I am grateful to WASA and I appreciate its flexibility and nimbleness in adjusting and responding with the times. Happy 50th Birthday WASA...and many more!

It has been said that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Never has that been more evident than this past year. Regardless of the specific role that you play within your district, I thank you for your grit and determination as well as your unwavering support and demonstrated advocacy during my year as president.

Be well...stay healthy and happy.

Brian L. Talbott

From the Executive Director



Joel Aune
WASA Executive
Director

YOU are WASA!

In his final message as WASA President to you, Brian Talbott wishes a happy 50th birthday to WASA. He speaks of WASA, and his thoughts on what it was, what it is, and what it might become in the years ahead.

As a former superintendent, I can relate to Brian's sentiments about WASA. The association was an invaluable source of support, and essential to my success as a superintendent.

However, as Executive Director my view has changed. It is a different perspective than the one you might have.

WASA is about *Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy*. But more importantly, WASA is really about you. WASA is the 1921, individuals who are leading this state's school districts. It is all of you, individually and collectively, that make WASA what it is.

As superintendent, I held WASA in high regard because of the staff and what they provided me as a school district leader. It was Doyle Winter, Bill Keim, Dan Steele, Barb Mertens, John Dekker, Helene Paroff, Mac Armstrong, and Andy Wolf as they provided the resources and support I needed to be a successful superintendent.

But WASA enjoys its prominent standing because of you—the superintendents and school district administrators leading our schools, leading for equity, and leading for children. WASA's standing is what it is because our members, leading schools, are some of the most good-hearted, dedicated, principled, bright-minded people on the planet.

I have always known this, but the past 17 months has shown a brighter light on the truly amazing people leading schools and taking care of children and young people in this state. I have attended over 600 region-type Zoom meetings since March 2020. Day after day, I saw you working the problem, looking for solutions, refusing to give in, and providing support for one another. I saw wrinkled brows, acute anxiety about an uncertain future, deep concern for kids, misty eyes, and heartfelt emotion. The relentless commitment to kids and their well-being was the focus of every conversation I observed—each and every one. Your courage was on display 24/7 as you fought for kids amidst an intense and unrelenting pressure.

I've always been proud of my superintendent colleagues, and let me tell you on their best day 99 percent of your critics couldn't carry your water. The past 17 months have been amazing, and I've never been prouder, to have called myself a superintendent or more honored to support your work and that of your dedicated leadership teams.

There is still a good ways to go, but the sun is finally coming out from behind the clouds. Next fall, amidst the challenges that await you, the work will be different. You can begin to spend more time and energy on what brought you into the work of leading schools in the first place. I hope after you get a bit of rest this summer, the vision of next year will serve to inspire you; to reignite the fire that you have for the most honorable work one can engage in—nurturing, serving, and growing kids to unveil their genius and realize their potentials.

By now, some of you out there may be rolling your eyes a little at what you might call my over-dramatization of what we do and what you have been through. But you won't get an apology from me—this is the essence of who you are and what you do. Know that my respect for you is enormous and my admiration beyond description. What you have done these past 17 months is nothing short of remarkable, and our schools could not have been in better hands.

I consider it an honor to serve and support you. You are heroes. YOU are WASA!

Respectfully,

Joel Aune



2021–22 WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT CAMPAIGN



Henry Strom



Michelle Whitney

The WASA President-elect campaign is underway.

Henry Strom, superintendent, Grandview School District, and Michelle Whitney, superintendent, Pasco School District, are our candidates. Electronic candidate brochures and a series of three brief introductory videos from each candidate are posted on the [WASA website](#), in addition to the candidate speeches from the End of the Year Celebration held on Monday, June 28.

Electronic ballots for the WASA President-elect Election will be sent to WASA Active Members on August 1, and voting will be open until August 13. Election results will be shared with the membership on August 16.

WASA at 50 Years ... A Year-Long Celebration!

WASA will celebrate its 50th birthday at the 2022 Summer Conference in Spokane. Between now and then, a year-long anniversary celebration has been planned to honor the past, while looking forward to an exciting future.

Our first look turns the clock back to 1954. The following excerpt from the WASA archives provides an account of our earliest history.

"THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS (WASA) WAS FIRST RECOGNIZED AS A DEPARTMENT WITHIN THE WASHINGTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (WEA) IN 1954. WASA'S FIRST PRESIDENT WAS ELMO STEINKE, WHO SERVED FROM 1953 TO 1954.

JOE CHANDLER WAS THEN THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE WEA AND RECOGNIZED AS LEADER OF A UNITED EDUCATION FAMILY. FOR YEARS, HE WAS KNOWN AS "MR. EDUCATION". SHORTLY AFTER HE RETIRED AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE WEA BEGAN TO SUBTLY CHANGE.

HISTORICALLY, TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS WERE CONSIDERED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN LABOR UNIONS. THEY STRESSED "SERVICE TO EDUCATION". BUT THE EMPHASIS SINCE 1965, WHEN SEVERAL STATES INCLUDING WASHINGTON PASSED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR PROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ACTS, HAS BEEN ONE OF TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS "STRESSING THE VESTED INTERESTS OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP".

THE SHIFT AND CHANGE HAD GROWN TO SUCH A POINT IN 1970 THAT WASA LEFT THE WEA TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF BOB WOODROOF. AT THAT TIME, THE ASSOCIATION DID NOT HAVE A FULL STAFF. LATER, ROLLAND UPTON SERVED AS PART TIME, INTERIM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. IN 1972, MURRAY TAYLOR BECAME THE FIRST FULL TIME EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF WASA AND SIRS. LATER THAT YEAR, HE ADDED A FULL TIME COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR TO ASSIST BOTH ORGANIZATIONS."

During the course of the coming year, we will continue to share WASA's history, from its infancy to the modern-day lighthouse association it has become. You will find the journey has been an interesting and fascinating one. Stay tuned throughout the coming year to learn about your association!



Dr. Roland H. Upton
Parttime Interim
Executive Secretary
1971-72



Doyle E. Winter
WASA's First
Executive Director
1977-80



Murray A. Taylor
Fulltime Permanent
Executive Secretary
for WASA and SIRS
1972-77

WASA at 50 Years ... A Year-Long Celebration! — Continued

New WASA Logo Unveiled!

As part of WASA's 50th Anniversary Celebration, a new logo has been designed as we look forward to a bright and exciting future. The logo is a representation of the three foundational pillars of WASA—*Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy* along with a commitment to Equity that threads through all we do at WASA. The color blue represents trustworthiness, maturity, security, and reliability, while gold promotes optimism and hope. The gradient effect shows movement both forward and upward as we envision a future full of possibility for WASA and for you.



For the 2021–22 year, a special commemorative logo has also been designed for use during the next 12 months as we celebrate WASA's 50th year of existence.

WASA 50th Anniversary Sponsors

Corporate sponsorship has always been an essential element of WASA's ability to provide an exemplary professional learning and networking experience for our members at a reasonable cost. But our sponsors provide more than just resources for WASA to deliver affordable conferences, workshops, institutes, and academies. Our corporate sponsors are TRUE partners, as they view this relationship with you as a unique and altruistic one. They are great friends of WASA, great friends of school district leaders, and great friends of public education.

Our 50th Anniversary sponsors include Beresford, Clear Risk, D.A. Davidson, Gallagher, McKinstry, OAC, Piper Sandler, and WSRMP.



2021 WASA Honorary Awards Winners



Service to WASA

Dr. Sam Artzis
Health Officer
Northeast Tri County Health Department



WASA Leadership

Tim Merlino
Superintendent
ESD 112



D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy Award

Dr. Mike Starosky
Executive Director of Schools PK-12
Seattle Public Schools



Golden Gavel Award

Chris Reykdal and the OSPI Team

2021 Piper Sandler Doyle E. Winter



Cindy Rockholt
Assistant Superintendent Educator
Growth and Development OSPI

WASA End of Year Celebration

The 2021 End of Year Celebration was held in conjunction with the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference on June 28. Members, special guests, and sponsors joined Zoom to recognize the Piper Sandler Doyle E. Winter Scholarship and the WASA State Honorary Award recipients. Along with President-elect Aaron Leavell and Executive Director Joel Aune, President Brian Talbott presided over the event. WASA 2021-22 President-elect candidates, Henry Strom, superintendent of Grandview, and Michelle Whitney, superintendent of Pasco, presented live candidate speeches to the audience. Executive Director Joel Aune unveiled the new WASA brand that includes a WASA Anniversary logo.

Eight sponsors have stepped forward, pledging \$10,000 each to support the 50th Anniversary celebration, which launches July 1, 2021, and will run until June 30, 2022. WASA 50th Anniversary sponsors include Beresford, Clear Risk, D.A. Davidson, Gallagher, McKinstry, OAC, Piper Sandler, and WSRMP.

In addition, appreciation was shown to corporate sponsors who supported the End of Year event and many others during these extraordinary times. The event wrapped up with the passing of the gavel, presentation of the President's ring to President-elect Aaron Leavell, and recognition of Brian Talbott's year of leadership as President of WASA.

AASA Governing Board Election Results



Michelle Price



Krestin Bahr

Michelle Price, superintendent, NCESD 171, and Krestin Bahr, superintendent, Peninsula School District, have been re-elected to fill the AASA Governing Board seats for the eastside and westside beginning July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024.

We thank Michelle and Krestin for their leadership in representing WASA on the AASA Governing Board along with Nathan McCann, superintendent, Ridgefield, and Kevin McKay, superintendent, Sunnyside School District. Freeman Superintendent Randy Russell also sits on the AASA Governing Board Executive Committee.

2021 Gallagher Howard M. Coble Scholarship



Melissa Riley
Assistant Director of Equity Pedagogy
Northshore School District

PEMCO Robert J. Handy Award Winners



Small Size District
Tim Dickinson
Principal
Conway School District



Medium Size District
Joseph Martin
Tribal Education Officer
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe



Large Size District
Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent
Walla Walla Public Schools

2022 Washington Superintendent of the Year (SOY)

The 2022 Washington State Superintendent of the Year process is underway.

To be considered for Washington's SOY process, submit the online application found on the [AASA website](https://www.aasa.org). Deadline to apply is October 1, 2021. WASA will convene a panel of judges who will review and score the applications submitted and determine Washington's Superintendent of the Year for 2022.

The selected candidate for Washington State will be submitted to AASA to be considered for the 2022 AASA National Superintendent of the Year which will be announced at the 2022 AASA National Conference on Education, February 17–19, 2021, in Nashville, TN.

For information on the Superintendent of the Year program and process, visit soy.aasa.org.

For questions on Washington's SOY process, contact [Shari Parsons](#) or by phone at 360.489.3641.



ARE YOU CONNECTED TO WASA?

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for information on upcoming conferences and workshops, legislative news and updates, and school news.

WASA Board Minutes in Brief— June 22, 2021

The Board approved the following:

- Consent Calendar
 - » June 2021—Comparative Membership Report
 - » April 2021—Board Meeting Minutes
 - » April 2021—Income Statement and Balance Sheet
 - » 2021 Spring Conference Financial
 - » 2021 WIL Conference Financial
 - » 2021 Superintendent Workshop Financial
- Re-Appointment of VEBA Representative, Dr. Greg Baker
- Election of the 2021–22 WASA Secretary and Treasurer
- 2021–22 WASA Goals and Action Steps
- 2022 WASA Legislative Platform
- Extension of Executive Director Joel Aune’s Contract Through 2024

The Executive Director’s report included:

- Investment Policy
- Facilities Update
- WASA 50th Anniversary Update
- 2020–21 WASA Goals, Actions, and Tasks Final Status

Presentations/discussion items included:

- Board of Tellers to Certify the WASA President-elect Election
- 2021–22 Preliminary Budget

WASA Assistant Executives provided reports on:

- Professional Learning: Quick Facts Since the April Board Meeting
- What’s Next in Professional Learning
- Legislative Update
- Legislation and Finance Committee
- Management Reviews
- SIRS
- Superintendent Mentor Program

Other items presented:

- Travel Insurance
- WASA End of the Year Celebration
- 2021–22 WASA President-elect Aaron Leavell’s Inauguration Reception
- Presidential Celebration for Brian Talbott
- Outgoing Board Member Recognition

The next WASA Board meeting is Sunday, September 26, 2021, held in conjunction with the Fall Conference.

AASA CORNER

AASA Educational Administration Scholarship

The AASA Women in School Leadership Award program is designed to recognize the exceptional leadership of active, frontline female leaders who make a difference in students’ lives every day. Three awards are available—Superintendent Award, Central Office/Principal Award, and School Driven Leadership Award.

Applicants are judged on the following criteria—Leadership for Learning, Communication, Professionalism, and Community Involvement.

- [Nominations](#) must be made by September 10, 2021.
- Applications must be submitted [online](#) by October 8, 2021.
- Finalists will be announced on November 15, 2021.
- Winners will be announced on February 17–19, 2021, at the AASA National Conference.

For further [information](#), visit the [AASA website](#).

AASA Educational Administration Scholarships

AASA’s Educational Administration Scholarships were created in 1949 to provide incentive, honor, and financial assistance to outstanding graduate students in school administration who intend to make the school superintendency a career. Seven top graduate students in educational administration will receive a scholarship from AASA.

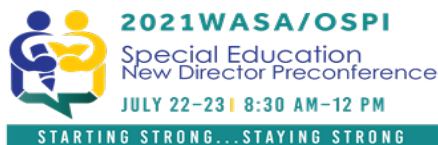
The scholarships are given in honor of AASA’s former executive directors. To review the eligibility information and [FAQ](#), visit the [AASA website](#), where [applications](#) are also available.

The deadline to apply is September 30, 2021.

Professional Learning Updates

Please contact Mike Nelson at mnelson@wasa-oly.org or Jamie Chylinski at jchylinski@wasa-oly.org with academy or professional learning questions.

[View/download our event calendar.](#)



If you are new in your district or new to the role of a special education director, don't miss the New Director Preconference.

DATES/TIMES

July 22, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

July 23, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

TOPICS

- Keynote Houston Kraft: Deep Kindness
- Top Five Fiscal Resources
- Engaging Families
- State Needs Projects
- Legal Landscape Post-COVID
- Learnings from Veteran Directors
- Learnings from Early Career Directors
- Organizing for Success

Time will be incorporated to meet regionally with your ESD director and OSPI staff.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)



If you are responsible for delivery special education services, this conference is for you.

This year's conference will again be delivered through five monthly sessions via Zoom. We look forward to continuing planning to resume in-person in 2022.

DATES/TIMES

Session 1: August 5, 8:30–11 a.m.

Renewing Hope: Accelerating Inclusive Learning

Session 2: September 9, 8:30–11 a.m.

Leading & Collaborating for Interventions

Session 3: October 12, 8:30–11 a.m.

Co-Designing Inclusive, Integrated Early Childhood Environments

Session 4: November 4, 8:30–11 a.m.

Building Equitable Pathways to Graduation and Post-School Success

Session 5: December 9, 8:30–11 a.m.

Celebrating District Innovations

Updates will be posted to www.wasa-oly.org/SPED21 as the content is developed.

SESSIONS

Each of the five sessions will feature:

- A mini “Ted Talk”
- Research to Practice Engagement
- District Best Practices Presentations
- Topical Speaker(s)

Whether new or seasoned, you don't want to miss this event!

[LEARN MORE](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Incoming superintendents, new to the superintendency, or new to a district, register now for the 2021 WASA Incoming Superintendent Conference. This conference provides a unique and invaluable opportunity for first-time and seasoned incoming superintendents to network and focus on their leadership and goals on the first 90 days of superintendency.

The conference features keynoter Houston Kraft, author of “Deep Kindness” and co-founder of CharacterStrong. All registrants will receive a copy of this thought-provoking book!

A sampling of our program topics include:

- Entry Planning/Your First 90 Day
- Strategic Planning
- District Finance
- Legal Issues
- Board Relations
- Communications

Register and learn more at www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming21.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

2021 WASA Fall Conference

Permission to Feel...Permission to Lead

Save the dates, registration opens July 26!

DATES

September 26–28

LOCATION

Campbell's Resort, Chelan

FEATURING

- Keynote Dr. Marc Brackett, "Permission to Feel"
- Keynote Stephen Bond, "Perseverance in a Strange Land"
- Kelcey Schmitz and Eric Bruns, UW SMART Center and Northwest MHTTC, "From Evidence to Impact: What Does Research Tell Us About School Mental Health?"
- Susan Barrett, Center on PBIS & Old Dominion University, "The Way Forward: Leveraging MTSS for Effective School Mental Health"

REGISTRATION

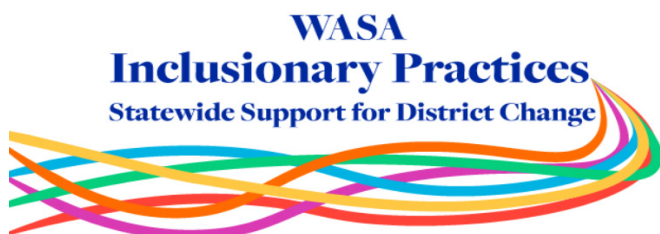
Registration and housing opens July 26!



UPLOAD YOUR MEMBERSHIP PHOTO

If you haven't already, please help us keep our membership directory up to date by taking a moment to upload your photo to your WASA member profile page.

Contact Sheila Chard at schard@wasa-oly.org if you have questions or need assistance.



WASA, in partnership with WSSDA, is pleased to announce that its Inclusionary Practices Project received funding for the next biennium. WASA will continue to work with Dr. Katie Novak and her associates in providing professional learning and support to assist district leadership teams develop systems and implement plans as they move to more fully inclusive learning environments for students with disabilities.

Detailed information about the project and the application process will be sent to all districts. In the meantime, if you are interested in continuing this journey or getting started on it, please hold August 2, 8:30–9:30 a.m. on your calendar for a required informational meeting.

Please feel free to contact Helene Paroff, WASA Inclusionary Practices Project Director, with any questions.
hparoff@wasa-oly.org | 509-953-9512

School Information and Research Service (SIRS): The Reliable Information Network

To find out more about the benefits of becoming a SIRS member district, [click here](#).



SIRS is a nonprofit organization that provides data and information on school organization, administration, operation, finance, and instruction to specifically meet the needs of superintendents, central office administrators, principals, and school board members. SIRS contracts with WASA for management services. Andy Wolf, WASA's Assistant Executive Director for Administrative Services, serves as the SIRS Executive Director.

SIRS produces Leadership Information, the Legislative Handbook, and the SIRS Salary Survey Report, in addition to occasional special reports like the Ample School Funding Project.

LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

Leadership Information (LI) is a series of monthly and quarterly articles that will help to shape and inform your educational leadership practice. These articles contain relevant school information research on the best practices being utilized in today's educational setting.

SIRS has partnered with Hanover Research to provide this service to our members.

Welcome New Members!

Alexis C. Buschbach, Kennewick SD
Crosby Carpenter, Methow Valley SD
Lance R. Egli, Monroe SD
Scot C. Embrey, Cosmopolis SD
Hayley I. Etnier, Edmonds SD
Kurt E. Gazow, Bellingham PS
Paul D. Gutzler, Methow Valley SD
Aaron Hansen, Washougal SD
Diane Hutchison, Castle Rock SD
Jessica McCartney, Enumclaw SD
Sara Mounsey, Methow Valley SD
Mike K. Snow, Lake Stevens SD
Scott West, Warden SD



Do you know someone who wants to join WASA? Tell them to visit [online](#) and sign up today!

Contact WASA

GENERAL INFORMATION
360.943.5717 / 800.859.9272

EXECUTIVE OFFICE
360.489.3641 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Joel Aune, Executive Director
jaune@wasa-oly.org
- Shari Parsons, Executive Assistant
sparsons@wasa-oly.org

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
360.489.3642

- Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director
dsteale@wasa-oly.org
- Sheila Chard, Administrative Assistant
schard@wasa-oly.org

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
& MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
360.489.3640 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Mike Nelson, Assistant Executive Director
mnelson@wasa-oly.org
- Jamie Chylinski, Professional Learning Coordinator
jchylinski@wasa-oly.org
- Lisa Gehman, Professional Learning/ Membership Assistant
lgehman@wasa-oly.org

ACCOUNTING
360.489.3643 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Eve Johnson, Accountant
ejohnson@wasa-oly.org

MEMBER SUPPORT &
ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS
360.489.3646

- Andy Wolf, Assistant Executive Director
awolf@wasa-oly.org

2021–22 WASA OFFICERS

President: Aaron Leavell, Bremerton
President-elect: TBD
Past President: Brian Talbott, Nine Mile Falls
Secretary: Jennifer Bethman, Bethel
Treasurer: Linda McKay, ESD 171

WASA ADDRESS
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