

WASA NEWS

February 2021—Edition 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **WASA Lunch and Learn with Bargainers | Zoom**
February 5, 12–1 p.m.
Click [here](#) to register.
- **2021 WASA · WSSDA · WASBO Legislative Conference Advocacy in a Virtual World Conference:**
February 21, 1–5 p.m.
Week on the Hill:
March 15–19, Virtual
Click [here](#) to register.
- **Superintendent Component Series: Thinking Beyond**
March 12, 2021, 12–1 p.m.
May 21, 2021, 12–1 p.m.
Click [here](#) to register.

WASA ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY

In the next few weeks, WASA will begin seeking candidates for Cohort II of our Aspiring Superintendents Academy. This professional learning initiative is designed for experienced district, building, and/or teacher leaders who aspire to the superintendency. The Academy will cover topics essential to developing a deep understanding of the role of a successful superintendent. Registration will be available soon!

ERNN BASIC BARGAINING WORKSHOP

Each Wednesday in February
Virtual | 8:30–9:30 a.m.
To register, [click here](#).

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.

WASA Friends,

The 2021 Legislative Session is now underway, and we have seen an increased level of engagement on the part of school district leaders thus far. While our advocacy efforts are off to a good start, we encourage you to stay the course and sustain your contact with legislators. As you know, we have given strong encouragement to non-superintendents to become more involved in legislative advocacy work this session. With the end date for this session being April 25, there is a long way to go, and we must sustain our advocacy efforts.

This session is different than any one before it, there being essentially no in-person interaction with lawmakers. However, what has not changed is that real influence comes from building relationships with legislators and communicating with them personally. In addition to testifying at committee hearings, a personal outreach via an email, a note, phone call, or a quick zoom is the way to establish yourself as a “go-to” expert when it comes to education issues.

We recognize that your time is limited amid the day to day demands of your work as a school district leader. But do not assume that legislative advocacy needs to be all-consuming. WASA has a number of tools and [resources](#) available to support your work in this context.

Our [2021 Legislative Platform](#), the [School Funding Coalition priorities](#), and accompanying talking points provide the basis for our over-arching areas of emphasis. WASA members can stay up to date on legislative action by reading Dan Steele’s weekly legislative newsletter ([TWIO](#)), which provides a deep and comprehensive review on happenings in Olympia. For a high-level overview, subscribe to his weekly [podcast](#), which is generally five to seven minutes in length—a super-efficient way to stay on top of things.

Also, be sure to save the date for the [2021 Legislative Conference](#), co-sponsored by WASA, WSSDA, and WASBO. This year’s conference will be in a virtual format on February 21, with the week-on-the-hill focus scheduled for March 15–19. While member engagement is essential before and following the conference, this event can serve as a helpful resource as we put on a unified push with legislators in late February and early March.

We hope you will find a way to carve out a bit of time to stay informed and commit to connecting with legislators on issues of importance. We believe this can be accomplished without investing tons of your valuable time.

Dr. King’s words ring true in that our silence will likely be perceived by legislators that all is well and good. Now, more than ever, we need resources and policy to ensure you have the tools necessary to care for and educate the students in your schools—both now and in the future.

Best Regards,

PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINATION PERIOD OPEN

The nomination period for the 2021–22 WASA President-elect elections closes on **Friday, February 5**. Contact [Krestin Bahr](#) with eastside candidate nominations.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WASA's major legislative focus this session surrounds the K-12 budget and the need for stability through the remainder of this school year, as well as consistent funding in the next school year. On the current front-burner is "early action" legislation ([HB 1368/SB 5344](#)) to appropriate federal relief funds across state government. One of our priorities is to advocate for the prompt appropriation of federal funds dedicated to K-12. In this regard, we are supportive of the early action; however, the legislation provides only \$668 million of the \$742 million dedicated to education—and none of the federal funding dedicated to OSPI (\$82 million) is provided. It is anticipated this relief package will be adopted soon. At that point, we will shift back to our key priorities—advocating for enrollment stability and preservation of vulnerable pupil transportation funds. A bill to address enrollment stabilization ([HB 1476](#)) was recently introduced and a transportation funding bill ([SB 5128](#)) is advancing through the process. You are encouraged to make your thoughts known about these issues to legislators.

As anticipated, the "virtual" nature of the 2021 Legislative Session has proven to be difficult—for legislators, lobbyists, and constituents. It has also highlighted the need for our members to be more engaged in the process than ever before. Participating in committee hearings is important, but it is imperative school administrators regularly connect with your legislators. Continue to follow the [TWIO](#) newsletter and our legislative [podcast](#) to stay up to date on issues that need your action.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR WASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS

WASA is seeking nominations for the following Board of Directors' leadership positions. Terms begin July 1, 2021.

- Superintendents Component Chair-elect (3-year commitment)
- Instructional Program Administrators Component (IPAC) Chair-elect (3-year commitment)
- Business and Personnel Administrators Component (BPAC) Chair-elect (2-year commitment)
- Special Education Component Chair (2-year commitment)

The deadline to submit a letter of interest for the positions listed is February 12. If you are interested in filling one of these WASA Board positions or making a nomination, please contact [Joel Aune](#).

AASA CORNER

- [AASA Launches National Commission to Provide Leadership to Transform America's Education System](#)
- [AASA: A New Education Vision for a New Administration](#)
- [AASA Resources on COVID-19](#)

THINKING ABOUT RETIREMENT?

Are you within one to five years of retirement? You may want to attend a virtual webinar to learn about your retirement plan options. Washington State School Retirees' Association is sponsoring a Pre-Retirement Zoom Webinar Thursday, February 18, 5-7 p.m. Click [here](#) for information to register.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Racial Justice:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [Gearing Up for Black History Month](#) (Facing Today)
 - [Black History is About More Than Oppression](#) (Education Week)
 - [When History Class Feels Like Propaganda: A Student's Perspective](#) (Education Week)
 - Research Guide: [Guiding Racially Focused Conversations With Your Children](#) (Hanover Research)
 - Info-Brief: [Types and Impacts of Race Related Trainings](#) (Hanover Research)
- **Pandemic:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [Vaccine Update](#) (OSPI, January 18, 2021)
 - [Best Practices in Returning to Learning](#) (Hanover Search)
 - [Behavioral Support Checklists: Internalizing Behavior](#) (Hanover Research)
 - Info-Brief: [Mitigating the Impact of Student Social Isolation](#) (Hanover Research)
 - Info-Brief: [Supporting Students' Social Emotional Needs](#) (Hanover Research)
 - Info Brief: [Best Practices for Returning to Learning](#)

QUICK LINKS

- [PEMCO Robert J. Handy Awards](#)
- [School Reopening Dashboard](#)
- [Get Ready Vaccination Plan](#)
- [Safety Requirements for Schools](#)
- [DOH Guidance for Schools](#)
- [COVID-19 State Projections](#)

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month's WASA Diamond-level Sponsor Spotlight features—

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We are so grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Learn more about [Piper Sandler!](#) Contact [Trevor Carlson](#) or [Ryan Swanson](#)