

# WASA NEWS

January 2021—Edition 1



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Superintendent Component Series: *Thinking Beyond*

January 22, 2021, 12–1 p.m.

March 12, 2021, 12–1 p.m.

May 21, 2021, 12–1 p.m.

Come to a unique series of collaboration with Superintendent colleagues from across the state as we *think beyond*...

- We must lead for the future after the pandemic.
- We must empower educators as instructional designers in the post pandemic world to challenge the systems and structures of public education to meet the needs of each of Washington's students.
- We must first strive to treat ourselves with dignity and respect while leading others.

*\*Registration for this free series opens January 11, 2021!*

### Actions that Honor Dignity and Belonging | WASA Winter Mini-Conference

January 26, Zoom

8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

### 2021 WASA-WSSDA-WASBO Legislative Conference (Virtual) | Advocacy in a Virtual World

Conference:

February 21, 1–5 p.m.

Week on the Hill:

February 21–26

Click [here](#) to register.

*"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."*

*-Helen Keller*

Friends and Colleagues,

The beginning of a new year typically provides a sense of renewed focus and energy as school district leaders seek to maximize opportunity and productivity over the last half of the school year. With 2020 now in the rearview mirror, 2021 provides a glimmer of promise that has not been evident in quite some time. While there remains a good number of problems and challenges, there is cause for optimism as the return of students to in-person learning is now visible on the horizon.

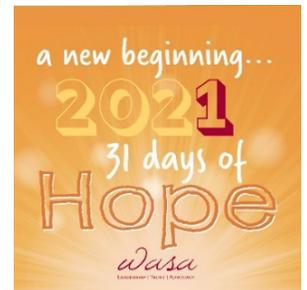
Effectual leaders are beacons of hope, especially during times of crisis and chaos. For the past ten months, you have been charged to provide a sense of hope amidst what are likely the most challenging circumstances of your career—a time during which the “end” of this crisis was not clear in regard to the “what,” “how,” or “when.” The certainty of a vaccine finally provides us a concrete sense of hope that this crisis will end.

Beginning with the new year, WASA is launching a campaign entitled, “A New Beginning ... 2021: 31 Days of Hope.” The idea is that each day, during the month of January, WASA will release a short inspirational video on its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. Our vision is that the videos will be watched and shared by WASA members. We hope this campaign might possibly inspire school district leaders to create a few inspirational videos of their own to share with staff, parents, and school communities—a widespread effort to bolster optimism and hope.

If you are not yet following WASA on Twitter or Facebook, now is a great time to make that connection. Simply search for “WASA” on both, and you are all set!

Here's to a happy, healthy, productive, and optimistic 2021,

*Joel*



## QUICK LINKS

- [Virtual Northwest Reception Registration](#)
- [Sexual Health Education Requirements](#) (OSPI, December 3, 2020)

## ERNN BASIC BARGAINING WORKSHOP—REGISTER NOW

This online series of webinars is designed for first time members of district bargaining teams to acquire a basic level of understanding about bargaining strategies and techniques, or anyone wanting to refresh their bargaining skills before going to the table in 2021. The course is split into four one-hour sessions that will occur each Wednesday morning, 8:30–9:30 a.m., during the month of February. For further information and to register, [click here](#).

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On Monday, January 11, the Legislature convenes its first year of the 67th Biennial Session. A major focus will be writing and adopting a new two-year Operating Budget in the face of a projected \$3.3 billion budget shortfall. Governor Inslee released his 2021–23 budget proposal last month, suggesting the budget puzzle be solved by zeroing out the Budget Stabilization Account (the state’s “Rainy Day” reserves), capturing projected budget savings, and implementing new taxes. The major fear of school administrators in this session is losing significant revenue due to enrollment reductions and/or reductions in pupil transportation funds due to reduced ridership while students are in school remotely. While we recently have been receiving fairly positive feedback from legislators about protecting that funding, the governor proposes to use \$831 Million in education “savings” to backfill the budget hole and for priorities outside of K-12. This conversation will be ongoing throughout the course of the session.

Given the state’s budget challenges and the potential that K-12 “savings” and unprotected K-12 funding (such as Local Effort Assistance) could become a target for reductions, it is incumbent on all school administrators to be fully engaged with your local legislators. They need to hear “your story” and understand your schools’ needs. To help you in your advocacy efforts, WASA will provide resources and assistance, including our [2021 Legislative Platform](#), the [School Funding Coalition priorities](#), and accompanying [talking points](#). Also, to stay up-to-date on legislative action, be sure to follow WASA’s legislative newsletter ([TWIO](#)) and [podcast](#).

## CONGRATULATIONS—DR. REID

Dr. Michelle Reid, Superintendent, Northshore School District, has been named one of [four finalists](#) for AASA’s 2021 National Superintendent of the Year. The announcement for the 2021 AASA National Superintendent of the Year will be made on February 18.

## 2021–22 WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT ELECTION

Nominations for the 2021–22 WASA President-elect are now open. Nominees must presently serve on the east side of Washington. Nominations can be made by region, individuals, or self-nomination to [Krestin Bahr](#), Superintendent, Eatonville School District by January 26.

## AASA CORNER

- [Statement on Secretary of Education Nomination](#)
- [AASA National Conference on Education](#): February 18–19
- [AASA: A New Education Vision for a New Administration](#)
- [AASA Resources on COVID-19](#)

## OPMA REMINDER: EXEMPT MEETINGS RELATED TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Some meetings frequently held by school boards are not subject to the OPMA. They are known as “exempt” meetings. The board need not provide public notice or public access when it is gathering for collective bargaining sessions, grievance meetings, discussions on the interpretation or application of a collective bargaining agreement, to plan or adopt positions or strategies for collective bargaining, professional negotiations, grievance or mediation proceedings, or for reviewing counter-proposals. For more detail on Open Public Meetings, click [here](#).

## INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Racial Justice:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
  - [Research Brief: Conducting an Equity Audit](#) (Hanover Research)
  - [Anti-Racism Discussion Guide](#) (Hanover Research)
  - [Confronting Inequity and Fighting the Jeffersonian Dismissal](#) (Education Leadership)
- **Pandemic:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
  - [Research Priority Brief: Virtual Learning Expectations and Participation](#) (Hanover Research)
  - [How to Help Kids Build Resilience Amid COVID-19 Chaos](#) (PBS News Hour)
  - [Research Priority Brief: Reluctant Learner Engagement in Virtual Learning](#) (Hanover Research)
- **Other:**
  - [Should Schools Be Giving So Many Failing Grades This Year?](#) (Education Week)
  - **Pacific Education Institute (PEI):** PEI empowers educators to advance scientific literacy by promoting equitable, outdoor, locally relevant, integrated, career connected, real-world science. Check out this [video](#) to find out more information!

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month’s WASA Diamond-level Sponsor Spotlight features D.A. Davidson!



We are so grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Learn more about [DA Davidson here!](#)