

APRIL 2023



NEWS

The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. We hope you find WASA News to be an efficient way to keep abreast of new information, emerging issues, and timely resources. Be reminded that previous issues of the WASA News can be found on our website.



The Impact of Gratitude on Mental Health

WASA Colleagues,

Many of you are looking forward to some down time next week, as most schools adjourn for Spring Break. This is a time for students, staff, and school district leaders to unplug, find some fun, and reenergize for the final push of the school year. Now, more than ever, these breaks are both welcome and needed for personal wellness and mental health. Many of you have shared with us your concerns about the social-emotional well-being of students, staff, and your district leadership teammates. So what is one to do about this seemingly enduring problem that is for some, deeply impactful?

I recently came upon a piece, "[The Impact of Gratitude on Mental Health](#)." The piece asks, "How does a focus on gratitude impact mental health?" and then asserts, "Research shows it can reduce stress and improve physical and mental health." Check it out. You may find some of this information helpful for you, your team, the staff, or the students in your schools as you consider the challenges they face these days.

I hope the break next week is a safe and relaxing one that brings you back rejuvenated and looking forward to the final stretch of the 2022–23 school year.

Enjoy the upcoming Spring Break!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "G. Joel Aune".

Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan
April 29, 2023



WASA • AWSP 2023 SUMMER CONFERENCE

Spokane Convention Center
June 25–27, 2023



WASA PLC AT WORK PROJECT COHORT 3

April 12, 2023 | 1–2 p.m. | Virtual

Cohort 3 of PLC at Work Project launches this fall. [Join the Zoom here](#) on April 12 to find out more.



SUPERINTENDENTS CONFERENCE

Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan
April 30–May 2, 2023



BOOKSTUDY: THE LIGHTHOUSE EFFECT WITH AUTHOR, STEVE PREMBERTON

May 4, May 18, and June 1, 2023 | 4:00–5:00 p.m.
Virtual



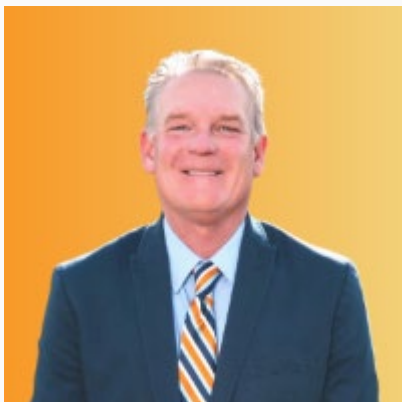
TRANSFORMING THE TREND

*The Evolution of Sexual Assault and
Molestation in Schools from Complacency to
Prevention and Survivor-focused Compassion*

May 16, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Des Moines, WA

WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

Nominees for 2023–24 WASA President-elect are **Bob Maxwell, Pullman**, and **Kevin McKay, Selah**. Congratulations to both on being nominated to serve as the 2023–24 WASA President Elect. Watch for information in future issues of WASA News to learn more about the candidates. The election will be held next August.



Kevin McKay

Selah School District

[View his introductory video here!](#)



Bob Maxwell

Pullman School District

[View his introductory video here!](#)

HONORARY AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOW OPEN

Nominations and applications are now being accepted for a number of award and scholarship opportunities. Check out these great opportunities below.

Piper Sandler | Doyle Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education A \$1,000 scholarship designed to assist talented and committed educational administrator who is presently or will begin a doctoral program in K-12 Public Education in 2023. Deadline: April 5, 2023

WASA Honorary Awards

REGION Awards | Deadlines vary per region

Note: Region award links are dependent on your region. Contact the Region **Honorary Awards Committee Chair** for deadlines in your region.

- **WASA Student Achievement Leadership Award** Recognizes innovative programs that promote access, equity, or social justice for the improvement of student achievement.
- **Award of Merit** Recipients recognized for promoting access, equity, and social justice for students, as well as making a significant contribution to WASA.
- **Community Leadership Award** Recognizes a non-WASA member for outstanding contributions to education.
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- **WASA Student Leadership Award** Recognizes outstanding student leaders who have created or played a significant leadership role in initiatives that promote access, equity, or social justice in their school and community.

STATE Awards nominations | Deadline: May 3, 2023

- **Golden Gavel Award** The recipient shall be an individual, group, association, or firm that has made an outstanding contribution to public education in the state of Washington.
- **D.A. Davidson Barbara Martens Legacy Award** \$1,000 gift presented to an individual/group who has had a significant impact on Washington's public education.
- **Service to WASA Award** The recipient shall have made contributions at the state level toward the goals of WASA.
- **WASA Leadership Award** Recipient is a WASA Active Member who demonstrates and exemplifies outstanding leadership abilities and who has made significant contributions to the field of education statewide.

WASHOUGAL'S CULTURE OF BELONGING

On page 56 of **The February issue of AASA's School Administrator**, the Washougal School District is featured as an AASA Lighthouse System. The piece, entitled "Washougal's Construction of a Culture of Belonging," highlights the district's work on building a culture of belonging where care and kindness is as essential as context and curriculum. Superintendent **Mary Templeton**'s leadership team is working with intent and persistence to, as she says, "It's not just about the child's cognitive, social and emotional wellness...every human being [including adults] within the system [must] feel a strong sense of purpose, support, and energy to move forward."



Joey Castilleja

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY-ELECTED COMPONENT CHAIRS!

Congratulations to our newly-elected Chair and Chair-elect:

BPAC Chair-elect: Jill Pratt, Rochester

IPAC Chair-elect: Denise Daniels, Fife

Special Education Chair: John Sander, Franklin Pierce

Superintendent Chair-elect: Joey Castilleja, Mabton



Denise Daniels



Jill Pratt



John Sanders



JOB OPENING: ERNN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Employee Relations & Negotiations Network (ERNN) is seeking applicants for its Executive Director. Current Executive Director, Warren Hopkins, is retiring. For more information about this leadership opportunity, including the job description and application procedures, [visit their website](#).

WELCOME ABOARD, KATIE!

Join us in welcoming Katie Crittenden, WASA's newest staff member! Katie will be taking the place as our Accounting Assistant. Katie is a Washington State University graduate from Lakewood. Prior to joining WASA, Katie spent six years at Milgard Windows & Door. In her free time, Katie enjoys mountaineering, sailing, and traveling.



ESSENTIAL EQUITY CONVERSATIONS



School district leaders are called upon to create systems and learning environments where each and every student can learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations. This is the core of your work. Although each school district's journey toward educational equity varies based on its unique district and community assets and challenges, initiating and advancing substantive conversations is fundamental to effective and principled school district leadership.

Each month we offer a prompt that you might employ to initiate or continue conversations with and among students, staff, school boards, and/or your community. Two forms of the prompt are offered, so that you are able to differentiate based upon the uniqueness of the group or community, as you step into these essential conversations:

In what ways have your school board members grown in their understanding that a student's sense of belonging impacts their success and the importance of incorporating strategies that improve belonging in your schools? What has attributed to their growth?

In what ways have your school board members grown in their understanding of what educational equity is and why it's important? What has attributed to the growth?

While WASA members possess an abundance of strategies and protocols in their repertoire to facilitate focused and productive conversations, some simple, yet effective protocols can be found [here](#).

No matter where things stand in your district and community today, the important thing is to start or continue, and persist in your efforts to keep the focus on the students—ALL students—under your care.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH DAN STEELE

The 2023 Legislature is in the homestretch with April 23, Sine Die (the last allowed day of the Regular Session), in sight. 2023–25 Operating and Capital Budgets have been released in both houses and budget negotiations are underway. WASA has provided complete details of all four budget proposals in This Week in Olympia: [Senate Operating and Capital Budgets](#); [House Operating Budget](#); and [House Capital Budget](#). You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with what legislators are planning on funding—or not. And make your voice heard.

Legislative Committees have one more week to hear and adopt bills, then most of the action returns to the House and Senate Chambers to adopt the last remaining bills—along with negotiations between the houses on differences in bills. Remember, in order for a bill to become law, it must pass both houses in the exact same form. If the opposite house amends a bill, it must return to the original house for concurrence. The “reconciliation phase” is described in the [Week 11](#) edition of This Week in Olympia. Time is running short, but you still have an opportunity to influence decisions; continue to engage!

Continue to follow [This Week in Olympia](#) and our weekly [legislative podcast](#) for up-to-date information as this session closes. WASA staff are also in the process of producing our annual End of Session Report, which will include full details of the final 2023–25 Operating and Capital Budgets, along with a comprehensive review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. It will be emailed to all TWIO subscribers as soon as it is completed.

RESOURCES



WASA has developed a storehouse where resources from past issues of WASA News are [readily accessible](#). This month's featured resources include:

- [4 Areas Prime for Education Disruption](#) (K-12 Dive)

- [Reading Reality in America's Classrooms](#) (K-12 Dive)
- [Data Literacy Checklist](#) (Hanover Research)
- [Should Students Get a "Do Over" on Grading and Redoing Assignments?](#) (Ed Week)
- [Re SEL: Administrators and Teachers See Things Differently](#) (Ed Week)
- [Benchmarking Student-Teacher-Pipeline-Programs](#) (Hanover Research)

DO YOU HAVE 100 OR MORE CLOCK HOURS?

OSPI is encouraging anyone (even those who have additional years left on your certificate) with the 100 clock hours needed to renew their certificate, to do so prior to June 30, 2023. On July 1, 2023, new certificate renewal clock-hour requirements go into place. [Check out these resources](#) for additional information.



IN LOVING MEMORY

John "Jack" Fotheringham

1933 - 2022

Kindly join us for a
Celebration of Life

Saturday, June 3rd, 2023

Hillcrest Lodge Park

1717 South 13th

Mt. Vernon, WA 98274

12:00-4:00 PM

Noon- 2:00 pm: Mingle/Lunch/Drinks

2:00 pm: Celebration

3:00 - 4:00: Sundaes and farewells

Please RSVP using the link

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/jackfotheringham>

Or text/call Kaila at 702-375-6685



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

INTERESTED IN BECOMING
A WASA SPONSOR?



Gallagher

Gallagher VEBA

Contact **Mike Nelson**

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**Gallagher VEBA**. We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their link to learn more about them. View all of our amazing Diamond-level sponsors on **our website**.

AASA CORNER

THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

- **New Scholarship in Support of Aspiring Latino/a Leaders**—The Daniel A. Domenech Scholarship. This scholarship seeks to support aspiring superintendents that due to financial hardship are unable to participate in the academy. The scholarship will provide up to \$3,500 in financial support to educational leaders who wish to apply for the **Aspiring Superintendents Academy® For Latino And Latina Leaders**. **Click here to apply**. Deadline: March 8, 2023.
- **AASA Quarterly Federal Policy Update**
- **NCE 2024 Annual Call for Proposals**—AASA's **call for proposals** for the 2024 National Conference on Education (NCE) is now open. Submissions must be received by May 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. ET. More information can be found **here**.



Washington Association of School Administrators
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