

JANUARY 2023



NEWS

The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. For those who want a bit more detail, links to additional information are embedded in the text of this publication. 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.



"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

—Nelson Mandela

Dear ,

As 2022 comes to a close, we want to say—thank you. During the past three years, WASA members have stood tall amidst the chaos and difficulties of the pandemic. Your amazing leadership and unwavering commitment to the students in your schools was vital to their well-being. You truly exemplified the very best in Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy.

The aftershocks of the pandemic continue to affect schools and the lives of the students you are charged to serve, support, and educate. So even as the pandemic subsides, there are thorny issues, complex challenges, and opportunities—yes, opportunities to make a difference in the lives of students, families, and the staff in your districts.

There is no endeavor more honorable than leading for children and young people. And what a blessing it is to have been given the opportunity and privilege to engage in this important, life-changing profession.

This state's 1.2 million students are so fortunate to have individuals of your caliber and character leading school districts. Our schools are definitely in good hands!

All the best to you in 2023,

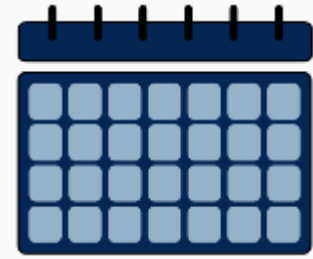
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "G. Joel Aune". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS

- **Women in Leadership: Women Who Lead | January 6 | Virtual**

- **Zooming In & Out of Inclusionary Practices** | January 11, February 6, & March 27 | Virtual
- **Legislative Conference** | February 26–27 | Olympia
- **Regional Equity Workshops** | March 6, 7, & 9 | Various Locations
- **The Lighthouse Effect Book Study** | May 4, May 18, & June 1 | Virtual
- **WASA/AWSP Summer Conference** | June 25–27 | Spokane



View all WASA year-long Academies [here](#)!

View the full WASA Calendar [here](#)

Member Survey Coming Next Week!

A survey of the WASA membership will be launched Monday, the purpose of which is to gauge member perceptions and quantify member needs. At WASA our aim is to serve, support, and provide leadership to members—individually and collectively. Your participation in the survey will help us to achieve that aspiration as we plan for the future. Please take a few minutes to share your perspective on YOUR association!

Are Your CBAs Current with the Law?

As you begin to prepare for another bargaining cycle, it is considered best practice to have current CBAs reviewed by legal counsel. Much has changed over the past few years, and there may be portions of your current CBAs that are out of alignment with the law or contain problematic language.



Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and the Center for Racial Justice has a robust **bank of resources** available for all educators. Established in 1976, Black History Month has been designated in the United States and Canada to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. While these resources can be used for the month of February, they extend beyond the scope of a single month and provide resources that can be utilized throughout the year.

Zooming In & Out on Inclusionary Practices

Three-Part Series: Jan. 11, Feb. 6, & March 27, 2023 | 4-6 p.m. PT

Presented by
Shelley Moore & Katie Novak

Register at www.bit.ly/ZoomingInAndOut



Sponsored by the Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Cadre

Zooming In & Out of Inclusionary Practices

January 11, February 6, & March 27 | 4–6 p.m.

WASA is excited to share this free opportunity for educators and families to learn from expert practitioners **Shelley Moore** and **Katie Novak** in a three-part virtual series, Zooming In & Out on Inclusionary Practices. Visit [our site](#) for more information about this complimentary event!

2023–24 WASA President-Elect Candidates

WASA Past President Aaron Leavell is seeking nominees for the 2023–24 WASA President-elect elections. Nominees must presently serve as an administrator on the east side of Washington. Candidate nominations can be made by regions, components, individuals, or self-nomination. The deadline to submit a nomination is January 27, 2023. The campaign will include information in the WASA Hotline, WASA News, WASA website, introductory videos, candidate brochures emailed to all WASA members, and candidate speeches given during the WASA Honorary Awards Luncheon at the 2023

WASA/AWSP Summer Conference. Electronic ballots will be emailed on August 1, 2023. Questions and nominations may be forwarded to Aaron Leavell, Superintendent, Olympic ESD 114, by [email](#) or to [Joel Aune](#).

Literacy Professional Development

OSPI has partnered with **Glean Education** to offer free professional development (PD) for the 2022–23 school year. The PD is available to all interested individuals (classified, certified, and administrative educators). The goal of the training initiative is to build staff capacity and provide educators with the knowledge and tools to enable them to **effectively implement Structured Literacy within an MTSS Framework**. The professional development opportunity includes (clock hours are free): On-Demand Courses (18 clock hours)

- Expert Webinar Series (9 clock hours)
- A free practicum experience will be available in January for individuals whom have completed the coursework (more information to come)

Learn more with this [single-page flyer](#) or [extended informational flyer](#).

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:

What do your students say are essential to their sense of belonging at school? If you haven't asked, how could you get this information?

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.

2023 WASA • WSSDA • WASBO
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL
LEADING THE CONVERSATION *featuring Shankar Vedantam*
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 26 | 1–6 P.M.
SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DAY ON THE HILL
FEBRUARY 27 | AT THE CAPITOL

February 26 and 27 | Olympia

Join WASA, **WSSDA**, and **WASBO** at our annual Legislative Conference in Olympia this February! Featuring guest speaker, **Shankar Vedantam**, this is your opportunity to hear updates on our shared legislative priorities, the current

education budget and policy landscape, and how to effectively advocate for our collective needs. The following day, we will meet at the Capitol to meet with Legislators. [Register today!](#)



On Monday, January 9, the Legislature convenes its first year of the 68th Biennial Session, wherein the Legislature will adopt a new Operating Budget (along with a Capital Construction Budget and a Transportation Budget) for the 2023–25 biennium. While legislators will delve into a multitude of policy bills, covering a vast range of issues, a major focus will be on crafting a new two-year budget. In fact, adopting an Operating Budget is the only specific task the Legislature is required to complete.

Crafting a state budget is always complex, but conversations about the 2023–25 budget will be somewhat unique. State revenues continue to increase beyond projections; however, that growth is beginning to slow, inflation continues to be historically high and there are ongoing fears of a recession and/or upcoming revenue declines. Many legislators will take the optimistic view and move to adopt a budget with substantial increases over the current 2021–23 budget; other legislators will seek to adopt a more conservative budget, saving for the future in case downside risks come to pass. This difference of opinions will likely color the entire session.

Although the budget will be a major focus, there are already signals K–12 education may not be a major priority in budget discussions. While Superintendent Reykdal presented a bold education budget package in September requesting approximately \$5.9 billion, Governor Inslee submitted a budget request to the Legislature in December that largely rejected Reykdal's requests (For information on Reykdal's budget, see the [Nov. 3 issue of TWIO](#); for information on Inslee's budget, see the [Dec. 16 issue of TWIO](#).) The governor's budget is just the first budget, but many legislators will use it as a template as they craft their own proposals—and many legislators believe K–12 education “got theirs,” given significant increased investments in the last two years. They fail to acknowledge, however, most of those increases were made with one-time federal revenues.

Given the ongoing challenges in our public schools, it is incumbent on all school administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative arena. Whether legislators expand the budget or not, their focus will likely be on numerous issues other than K–12 education—unless they hear from you. Often. And with or without education budget increases, there will be a host of K–12 policy bills—both positive and negative—that need to be addressed. Legislators need to hear “your story” and understand your needs. If you do not advocate for your students, your staff, and your district, who will?

To support your advocacy efforts, WASA will continue to provide resources and assistance, including our [2023 Legislative Platform](#); the [School Funding Coalition's 2023 priorities](#); our weekly legislative newsletter, [This Week in Olympia](#) or [TWIO](#) (published Fridays); our legislative [podcast](#) (available Monday or Tuesday each week); and our annual Session Guide (to be released in the coming weeks).

Remember, advocacy does not have to be hard, time-consuming, or intimidating. In addition to the resources noted above, we encourage you to review our two-part “Finding Your Voice.”

Lunch & Learn webinar. Part I is a comprehensive review of WASA's 2023 Legislative Platform and Part II focuses on how to effectively engage with your legislators. The presentation slides and recording of both webinars are available on the WASA website: [Part I](#) and [Part II](#).

KNOW YOUR ASSOCIATION

WASA STANDS FOR INTEGRITY

WASA's **mission** is anchored in the ideals of Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy. WASA members exemplify Trust through competence, integrity, and vision—all vital elements of effective leadership. WASA's **Code of Ethics** articulates an explicit foundation for integrity in leadership. Most specifically, **Section II of the Code of Ethics** underscores the obligation to fulfill professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity including:

- *The execution of school policies and procedures will be carried out impartially and without preferential consideration to any individual or group.*
- *Public statements or communications will not be made which knowingly contain false information or which knowingly fail to include pertinent data.*
- *The school administrator will refrain from making unwarranted claims or misinterpreting facts to further his/her professional status.*
- *Unfounded derogatory judgements about other colleagues or school systems will not be made.*
- *The school community has the right to expect an administrator to be consistent and truthful in every aspect of his/her professional life.*

Never forget that **you** model and set the tone for your school district. Integrity and character are foundational to trust, and in the absence of trust, little can be accomplished. There may be no personal attribute more important than leading with integrity each and every day.

RESOURCES



WASA has developed a storehouse where resources from past issues of WASA News are **readily accessible**. This month's featured resources include a focus on Leading for Change, emerging trends, and social emotional learning:

SEL

- **Reducing Behavior Problems in the Elementary Classroom (What Works Clearinghouse)**
- **4 Strategies for Unlocking the Value of SEL (K-12 Dive)**
- **What Schools Can Do to Ease Students' Anxiety (Education Week)—PDF**

TRENDS AND RESEARCH

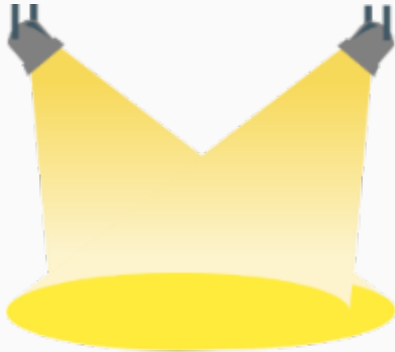
- **4 K-12 Tech Trends to Follow in 2023 (Ed Tech Magazine)**
- **The 10 Most Significant Education Studies of 2022 (Edutopia)**

LEADING CHANGE

- **Reinventing Education Post Pandemic (Teaching+ Learning Lab)**

OTHER

- [A resource for teachers and parents: How to Talk to Your Kids About Black History Month—and 25 Ways to Honor It \(Parade\)](#)
 - [Guidance to Help Reduce Influenza in Schools \(CDC\)](#)
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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This month's **Sponsor Spotlight** features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**McKinstry**. We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their links to learn more about them. View all of our amazing Diamond-level sponsors on [our website](#).

McKinstry

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A WASA SPONSOR?

Contact **Mike Nelson**



- AASA is proud to announce that **David R. Schuler** has been selected by the organization's executive committee as its new executive director, replacing Daniel A. Domenech, who will retire in February 2023. [Read more.](#)
 - AASA Issues [Statement On Latest NAEP Results](#).
 - Register Early & Save—[AASA National Conference on Education](#) | **February 16–18, 2023** | San Antonio, TX
 - [AASA Quarterly Federal Policy Update](#)
 - New Dept of Energy Grants Available to K-12 Schools. The Department of Energy has kicked off an \$80 million grant program for critical energy upgrades in America's highest-need K-12 school facilities. [Learn more.](#)
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wasa-oly.org | **View mailing online.**
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