

JUNE 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.*



*"School district leaders have the privilege of making a lasting impact on the lives of students, shaping their future, and preparing them to become responsible and successful global citizens."*

—Unknown

WASA Friends,

With the end of the school year just around the corner, the level of planning and activity in your schools is reaching a crescendo. More than any time of the year, it seems June presents more work and responsibility than time allows, as students, staff, principals, and district leaders are pushing hard to bring the school year to a close.

Amidst the full-throttle pace of the final weeks of school, there is both cause and opportunity for celebration. Through their school experience this year, the students have grown, matured, and exhibited significant accomplishments and achievement. They deserve to be acknowledged and celebrated—each and every one of them.

Equally deserving of recognition are the exceptional teachers and support staff who have tirelessly supported and guided your students on their educational journeys. Their dedication, creativity, and unwavering commitment to student success have made a profound impact on the lives of those they teach and care for.

As school district leaders, you have set a vision of excellence and inclusivity to drive this important work with the students in your schools. Your leadership and dedication to the staff and students is essential to their success. You establish the culture, build systems, and garner necessary resources to make all of this happen.

Be reminded that the pace and pressure of this time of year can cause staff and school district leaders to miss out on opportunities to reflect upon the past year—to miss out on opportunities to celebrate the challenges, extraordinary efforts, and magic that occurs in schools.

The transformative power of education and the profound impact it has on the lives of students is an amazing thing. What a privilege it is to have the responsibility and opportunity to make that kind of difference. Amidst the rush to bring school to a close, it is easy to take for granted this privilege. I urge you to be reflective and "take it all in" during these final weeks of the 2022–23 school year—enjoy, celebrate, and take pride in the difference you are making in the lives of the students in your care.

After all, isn't this our individual and collective "Why?"

Best,



Joel Aune  
WASA Executive Director

# UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



WASHINGTON STATE'S PREMIERE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

**NEXT LEVEL LEADERS**  
Washington State's Premiere  
Leadership Academy



**INCOMING SUPERINTENDENTS  
CONFERENCE**  
July 23–24 | Tacoma, WA



**BTS SPARK PERSONALIZED  
LEADERSHIP COACHING**  
One-to-one coaching for educational  
administrators!



**WASA • AWSP 2023  
SUMMER CONFERENCE**  
Spokane Convention Center  
June 25–27



**SPECIAL EDUCATION  
DIRECTORS PRECONFERENCE**  
August 2 | 11 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Kennewick, WA



**WASA • OSPI  
MTSS FEST 2023**  
August 3–4 | Kennewick, WA



## WASA/AWSP GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 25 | 8 a.m.

Are you attending summer conference? Don't miss out on the annual golf tournament! Join us on Sunday, June 25 for fun and prizes. Learn more about this event and register [here](#)!

## Inclusionary Practices Statewide Support for District Change



### HOW TEACHERS CAN SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As you are probably aware, WASA has been working alongside Dr. Katie Novak since the **Inclusionary Practices Projects** were first funded by the legislature. The WASA Inclusionary Practices Project's purpose is "With support from the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), WASA will provide professional learning and support to assist districts as they develop and/or refine plans to move to more fully inclusive learning environments for students with disabilities." Much of the work participating districts have engaged in – and of interest to all districts – is how to best serve students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment and increase outcomes for all students. To this end, Katie Novak and Helene Paroff, WASA IP Project Director, co-authored [this resource](#) for district use.

We hope it will be of assistance to you as you journey towards meeting the needs of each and every student. Please share with others in your district, as appropriate.

## RESOURCES FOR RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth became a federal holiday, as well as a state legal holiday, in June 2021. OSPI has [resources](#) available to support educators in recognizing Juneteenth. These resources will help educators as they dive deeper into the origins and meaning of this holiday—for their own learning, as well as that of their students.



## WHEN WOMEN LEAD SUMMIT BY WALAS

**Dr. Christina Kishimoto** is inviting Latinx women currently serving as superintendents, principals, or central office administrators to join her for a wonderful Summit entitled When Women Lead. In an effort to support Latinx women that are members of WALAS, she is offering five free registrations on a first come first served basis. If you are interested, please contact Robert Elizondo, WALAS president at [relizondo@touchetsd.org](mailto:relizondo@touchetsd.org).



## 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 is one practice that helped students who have previously felt unwelcomed to gain a sense of belonging within your district that you are proud of accomplishing this year?***

***What is one practice that helped increase equity within your district that you are proud of accomplishing this year?***

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.

## 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. View their third videos at the links below to learn more about them! The election will be held in August.



**Bob Maxwell**

Pullman School District

[View his third video here!](#)



**Kevin McKay**

Selah School District

[View his third video here!](#)

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH DAN STEELE

The Legislature adjourned its 2023 at the end of April and Governor Inslee recently completed signing adopted bills, including new, two-year Operating and Capital Budgets. Now that the dust has begun to settle, school districts are moving to implement the many education-related bills that were adopted this year. WASA staff is finalizing the 2023 End of Session Report, which will review the many new policies and other changes that will be required of school districts; watch your e-mail for a copy of the Report soon.

The education community had some success in the 2023 Session and credit goes to those administrators who actively participated in the process, regularly connecting with legislators. Without your efforts, we would have been destined to failure. Because of this work, in those areas where we were less successful, we laid the groundwork for future success. Ultimately, WASA can only be success if you remain involved; advocacy is a year-round effort and the end of the Legislative Session should not mean the end of school administrators' advocacy activities.

As we prepare for the next session, we encourage you to continue your engagement with legislators. Contact your legislators now (and often) and continue to build good relationships with them. Establish trust and credibility so they will come to you for information and advice. During the interim, legislators have more time for “real” conversations. Take time to meet them for coffee or offer to meet them in their district office—or dial them up on Zoom, if necessary. Invite them to a meeting of your Board. Give legislators a tour of your schools. It is incumbent upon you to build a positive relationship with legislators—relationships that will pay dividends in our future advocacy efforts.

To assist you in your efforts, WASA's Legislation & Finance Committee has already begun to turn our attention to the 2024 Session. The Committee is in the process of developing a recommended 2024 Legislative Platform, with the WASA Board expected to take action at its June meeting. We encourage you to use this Platform, comprised of WASA's highest legislative priorities, to guide your conversations with legislators. We hope that you will join with WASA—and our education association colleagues—as we raise our collective voices in unison to fight for our public schools. YOU are WASA—and we can't do it without you!

# RESOURCES



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

- **Rebuilding Culture and Climate** (Hanover Research)
- **Restoring Teen Well-Being** (Wayfinder)
- **Teachers Are Stressed and Disrespected, But Happier Than Last Year: 7 Takeaways From New Poll** (Education Week)



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

## BLRB architects

### BLRB Architects

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**BLRB**. 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

- **AASA Quarterly Federal Policy Update**
- The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting round two applications for competitive grant funding for the **Clean School Bus Program**.
- AASA and the Jed Foundation **announced a partnership** on a multi-year initiative in approaching mental health and suicide prevention within school districts. Interested in sharing your experience? Learn more **here**.
- **WEBINAR SERIES: Fixing Student & Child Privacy Laws**—a webinar series designed to educate on the basics of student privacy, areas of conflict and more.



Washington Association of School Administrators  
PO Box 14459, Tumwater, WA 98511 | 800.859.9272

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