

MAY 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 Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) is an organization for professional administrators that is committed to leadership: Leadership in providing equity and excellence in student learning..."*

*—portion of the WASA Mission Statement*

WASA is first and foremost, about leadership for public education. WASA recognizes that strong and visionary leadership is the key to creating schools that are successful, dynamic, and responsive to the needs of students, staff, and the community.

Leadership isn't always easy, and there may be times when you feel discouraged or uncertain about your ability to make a difference. It's important to remember that your leadership matters, even when it doesn't feel like it.

As a school district leader, you have the power to shape the culture and direction of schools in your district, to inspire and support staff, and to make a positive impact on the lives of the students in your district's schools.

Even small acts of leadership, such as listening to concerns, providing support and guidance, and recognizing achievements, can have a significant impact on those around you. So, remember that leadership is a journey, and even when the path may be difficult, **the destination is always worth pursuing**. Your leadership matters, and by staying committed to your goals and values, you can make a real difference in the lives of those you serve, support, and lead.

Challenging times call for leadership. There are nearly 1,300 WASA leaders—superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors, and others—continuing to provide vision, hope, and a steady hand during these unsettled times. Thanks to you, this state's schools and the 1.1 million children attending them are in good hands—your hands.

With respect and admiration,

Joel Aune  
WASA Executive Director

## UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



TRANSFORMING THE TREND

*The Evolution of Sexual Assault and Molestation in Schools from Complacency to Prevention and Survivor-focused Compassion*  
May 16 | 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.  
Des Moines, WA



**LUNCH AND LEARN: THREE-YEAR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTS**

May 17  
Virtual | 12–1 p.m.

**bts spark**  
school leadership made personal

**LUNCH AND LEARN: WHY LEADERSHIP COACHING?**

May 31  
Virtual | 12–1 p.m.



**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



**OSPI • WASA MTSS FEST 2023**

August 3–4 | Kennewick, 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. View their second videos at the links below to learn more about them! The election will be held next August.



**Bob Maxwell**

Pullman School District

[View his second video here!](#)



**Kevin McKay**

Selah School District

[View his second video 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.



## 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](#).

## WEBINAR: UNIFYING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES THROUGH POLARIZING TIMES

May 24 | 10–11 a.m.



Join WASA's partner ThoughtExchange in an hour-long webinar hosted by ThoughtExchange's VP of ESG Karen Craggs-Milne, the takeaway goals include: learning how to better understand division, hold respectful and productive conversations, and find common ground to unify districts around shared goals. [Register today!](#)



## REMEMBERING WAYNE BARRETT

Superintendent Wayne Barrett, a good friend and colleague, lost his life in an automobile accident last week. Wayne has capably served as superintendent of the [Concrete School District](#) since 2017. Before becoming the superintendent in Concrete, Wayne was a CTE teacher and principal in Pasco, Kiona-Benton, and Omak.

Those of us who knew Wayne will remember him fondly—he was truly one of a kind. Wayne was a successful superintendent, and one of the really good people in this business. He had a big heart for kids, a firm handshake, and a hearty laugh.

Our heartfelt condolences are with his family, friends, and the Concrete school community during this very difficult time. Wayne will be missed.

## 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:

***Think about the most diverse school within your district. Picture a new family touring the school. What would they see that illustrates that all students are valued there?***

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 AASA GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

WASA is excited to announce the 2023 AASA Governing Board Elections!

Three positions are up for election for Term Year July 1, 2023–June 30, 2026:

An Eastside position, a Westside position, and an At Large position.

***Don't forget to vote!***

**Online voting will take place May 15-22, 2023.**

### MEET THE NOMINEES:



**Nathan McCann**

Superintendent  
Ridgefield School District

[View Nathan's Bio!](#)



**Ron Banner**

Superintendent  
Clover Park School District

[View Ron's Bio!](#)



**Wade Smith**

Superintendent  
Walla Walla Public Schools

[View Wade's Bio!](#)

**E-Ballots will be sent to AASA Members on May 15, 2023!**



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WITH DAN STEELE

The 2023 Legislature adjourned its session on April 23, as scheduled. The major action was the adoption of a new two-year Operating Budget. The 2023–25 Operating Budget appropriates \$69.8 billion to state programs—an increase of \$5.7 billion (8.8 percent) beyond the current 2021–23 Operating Budget. K-12 education funding is increased by \$2.9 billion. This is a significant increase; however, that \$2.9 billion increase is comprised of \$2.6 billion in REQUIRED Maintenance Level costs. Budget-writers only provided \$346 million in

discretionary Policy Level decisions. Nevertheless, K–12 did achieve some important gains, including an increased investment of \$371 million for special education.

With the Legislature's business in 2023 completed, please do not end your engagement. We encourage you to view the end of this session as the starting point of your engagement in 2024. Connect with your legislators this summer and build your relationships with them, away from the pressure of the legislative session. Take the opportunity to thank your legislators for what they provided—and explain to them what else is still needed.

To assist your conversations with legislators, WASA staff is in process of producing our annual End of Session Report, with a comprehensive review of the outcomes of this session. The Report will include full details of the 2023–25 Operating Budget and the 2023–25 Capital Budget, along with a wide-ranging review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. After the governor takes action on bills and the dust settles, the Report will be emailed to all TWIO subscribers (and available on the [WASA website](#)).

# 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:

- [5 Tips for Designing School Spaces That Support Students](#) (Education Week)
- [Bullying Prevention, Tracking, and Messaging](#) (Hanover Research)
- [Restoring Teen Well-Being Guide](#) (Center for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [What School Leaders Can Do to Ease Teacher Stress](#) (Education Week)
- [The Impact of Gratitude on Mental Health](#) (NAMI)
- [Fostering Student Participation in Policy Making: Cases from the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#) (AERA)

## 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 not current with the law or contain problematic language.

## DO YOU HAVE 100+ 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.

## 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.

## SPRING INTO ACTION

### MISSED THE LATEST HOTLINE?

Read up on the latest from WASA, including information about the upcoming president election, staff spotlights, regional

information, legislative updates, Board meeting briefs, and a letter from WASA's president. Access it [here](#).





## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

### INTERESTED IN BECOMING A WASA SPONSOR?

Contact [Mike Nelson](#)

## 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 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](#).
- 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.



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