



Direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

JUNE/JULY 2013

Legislative Assembly is just around the corner

WSSDA invites you to attend our annual Legislative Assembly at the Seattle Airport Marriott, September 19–21. Registration is now open online. You'll also receive a registration form in the mail with further details and pricing information.

The Legislative Assembly combines information sharing, networking, and a business meeting in an action-packed two and a half days.

While each board's Legislative Representative is expected to attend, all school directors are also encouraged to attend and help set WSSDA's positions and priorities for the 2014 legislative session.

Schedule of events

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- **Advocacy 201**
1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.
(optional, \$45 per person)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- **Innovative Schools Tour**
8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
(limited to 60 people, register separately)
- **New to Assembly Luncheon**
11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
(free for first-time attendees, register separately)
- **Pre-Assembly Program and Reception**
1:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
(included with registration)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- **Legislative Assembly**
9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
(included with registration)

Grand Coulee community gets new culture with new K-12 facility

For more than four decades, the Grand Coulee School District has been trying to secure funding to build new schools. Persistence has finally paid off. In October 2014, the new K-12 school will open to the community.

Caught up in one loophole after another, the district didn't fit into any funding mechanisms put in place by the state and federal governments. The fight for funding was a constant struggle for district leaders.

The federal government built up the town's infrastructure in 1935 and soon schools were built for the families of the workers of the Grand Coulee Dam and the surrounding communities. More than 80 years later, the schools are in

desperate need of an overhaul.

After a number of recent illnesses, the district conducted air quality testing at Center Elementary School and found high levels of carbon monoxide and humidity. The results also showed there wasn't enough outside air coming into the building. Add to that the asbestos and lead paint from the dated building and there's little wonder officials were concerned about student health.

Grand Coulee is unique in that only one percent of property in the district is fully taxable. Half of the district's land is on the Colville Indian Reservation and other portions are federal or state owned. The district simply did not have

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From left, Colville Business Council members Nancy Johnson, Lynn Palmanteer-Holder, Darlene Zacherle, Billy Nicholson and Brian Nissen; former school board member Donna DeWinkler; board members Ken Stanger, Carla Marconi, and Ted Piccolo; former school board member Nita Haag, Superintendent Dennis Carlson and board Chair Joette Barry.

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Annual Conference keynote speakers

Dr. Robert Brooks

During the past 30 years, Robert Brooks has presented nationally and internationally to thousands of parents, educators, mental health professionals, and business people. He is renowned for the warmth and humor he uses to bring his insights and anecdotes to life. On Friday morning, Dr. Brooks will open the conference with a keynote presentation on “The Power of Mindsets: Creating a Positive School Climate.” His message calls for educators to establish a framework for that will allow students to become confident, self-disciplined, resilient, creative and adaptive. Through this, school directors can help set policies that will create the environment for 21st century learning to take place.

Dr. Ronald Ferguson

Ronald Ferguson is a Senior Lecturer in Education and Public Policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Harvard Kennedy School. His research and writing for the past decade have focused on racial achievement gaps, appearing in a variety of publications. Dr. Ferguson’s most recent book is *Toward Excellence with Equity: An Emerging Vision for Closing the Achievement Gap*. During his presentation, he will share how to develop an American strategy for the future which will engage educators and employers in a more collaborative approach.

Jon Kitna

Jon Kitna is best known as a former NFL quarterback whose career included seasons with the Seattle Seahawks and Dallas Cowboys. Less known is the fact that he always wanted to be a math teacher — a dream he realized when he retired from the NFL. Jon, as teacher and football coach, now inspires students at Lincoln High School in Tacoma to excel in academics and athletics.

Sessions and speakers set for 2013 Annual Conference

The Washington State School Directors’ Association is pleased to invite you to the 2013 Annual Conference, the premier event for school directors and superintendents in Washington.

Join us November 21–24 at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency, for the largest gathering of education policymakers in the state of Washington. Take advantage of this incredible opportunity for professional development and learn about the latest innovations, solutions and research in public education today.

This year, we are offering more ways for you and your board to save money. Visit our website to learn how to take advantage of discounted conference and travel rates and about other ways for you and your board to save at this year’s conference:

- Register before October 1 for early registration rates.
- Learn about scholarship opportunities offered by the Washington School Boards’ Educational Foundation.
- Take advantage of exclusive airline and shuttle discounts.
- Book your Bellevue Hyatt Regency room with discounted conference rates.

Register online now at www.wssda.org to secure your spot at this year’s event. We look forward to seeing you in November!



Early bird workshops

Get a head start on conference activities and sign up for one of our early bird workshops on Thursday, November 21. Maximize your time at this year’s event by taking advantage of these exceptional workshops. This year we are offering two workshops that will tour local area schools.

Plus, as an early bird workshop attendee, you will receive complementary admission to a preconference reception and presentation by our opening keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Brooks.

Check our website, www.wssda.org, for full workshop descriptions and pricing.

WORKSHOPS (BELLEVUE HYATT REGENCY)

New board member boot camp

Phil Gore, Director of Leadership Development Services

Taking it to the next level

Colleen Miller, Assistant Director of Leadership Development Services

Legislative boot camp

Marie Sullivan, Director of Governmental Relations

Secrets of highly effective boards

Dr. Thomas Alsbury, Professor of Educational Leadership, Seattle Pacific University

Focusing on early learning: P-3

Jonelle Adams, Executive Director

WORKSHOPS (OFF SITE)

Engaging students in the field with STEM

Dr. Margaret Tudor, Executive Director, Pacific Education Institute

STEM: Advanced manufacturing through CTE and Core-Plus

David Gehring, Executive Director, Manufacturing Industrial Council



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Jonelle Adams

Get ready for summer school!

What ever happened to the long, lazy days of summer? During the next few months we plan to launch several new products, beginning with a professional development series on ethics as part of the new **WSSDA U** program.

This entertaining, provocative and timely ethics course was developed specifically for school directors. It covers subjects such as accepting gifts, evaluating a superintendent, conflicts of interest, use of email and Facebook and nepotism. It does so through a series of short videos.

I was hooked the moment I read some of the segment titles, for example: after the game, bribes, coffee break and I love technology. The series was produced by some very creative folks at our sister agency in Texas.

The ethics series highlights the launch of the web-based WSSDA U. This online learning program marks a real first for the association and we are committed to its success.

Our goal is to provide you with professional development, both for individual school directors and entire school boards. It is learner-centered. Content will be delivered in small chunks to allow you to fit it into your schedule.

The first phase will include 18 content modules with a focus on building a strong and effective board.

Our target launch date for WSSDA U is the first day of summer, June 21. Stay tuned to WSSDA News on our website and eClippings for more information.

Center for Public Education releases new report on turnaround strategies

On May 1, the Center for Public Education released its look at the various turnaround strategies called for in No Child Left Behind, School Improvement Grants (SIG) and Parent Trigger Laws.

“Which Way Up: What Research Says About Turnaround Strategies,” finds that the \$5 billion in SIG investments are showing an early impact in about two-thirds of SIG schools based on one year’s data.

The report also shows that the efficacy is mixed or limited for the four intervention models required by the SIG program. The models — school closure, restart (charters), transformation and turnaround — are also mimicked in the Race to the Top Grants and Parent Trigger Laws.

In conclusion, the report suggests that decisions about turnaround strategies are best determined locally and once made, should be monitored closely to make sure they are producing results.

To read the full report, visit www.centerforpubliceducation.org.

Fertakis participates in national book launch

Mary Fertakis, WSSDA’s former president, participated in the national book launch of Brookings Institute’s *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*, in Washington, D.C.

The live webcast featured a discussion between panelists about the suburbanization of poverty in America and policy implications at the state and federal level. The panelists also discussed potential efforts to address poverty.

Here are some of the main points covered during the webcast:

- There is now more poverty in the nation’s suburbs than in the nation’s cities.
- Though immigration, resident mobility and other poverty-related issues may be concentrated in certain areas, they are regional issues.
- Traditional forms of poverty alleviation are facing difficulties in suburban environments due to the lack of centralization and expansive service areas.

A recording of the webcast is available at www.brookings.edu/events.



COUNCIL OF URBAN BOARDS OF EDUCATION
2013 CUBE Summer Issues Seminar
July 18-20, 2013 Seattle, WA

\$365 for the first person, \$165 for the second.

For more information:
www.nsba.org/cube

Slate of officer candidates to be published in July

The slate of candidates for WSSDA president-elect and vice president will be announced by email in late July.

Officers are the leaders of WSSDA. They speak on behalf of the association before the legislature and at conferences and meetings of other organizations. They vote on your behalf at the National School Boards Association (NSBA), participate on state task forces, interpret association policy, and much more.

WSSDA represents all 1,477 school directors in the state. We encourage members to participate in identifying and electing effective leadership.

The WSSDA Nominating Committee will interview potential candidates and forward a slate. Once the slate of candidates is announced, members will have another chance to nominate

another candidate. "Nominations from the floor" will be accepted online.

All nominations from the floor must be received between August 1 and midnight, August 15. The nominee will be contacted by the committee chair to confirm his or her willingness to run.

Officer elections will be conducted online again this year from August 26 through September 27. WSSDA members will receive detailed instructions by email with access to the online ballot.

If you do not currently receive emails from WSSDA, check to make sure they are not being caught in junk mail or spam filters. To update your email address or contact information, please contact Antonio Gonzalez at T.Gonzalez@wssda.org or 360.252.3008.



PRESIDENT
Debbie Long

Graduation time brings joy and tears

Some 60,000 students are graduating from high schools across the state this month. This is an opportunity for all school board directors to celebrate. It is a time for joy and a few tears, too, knowing that we are shaking their hands as they leave us and begin their journey into the future.

We can be proud that public education has prepared many of our children to become college and career ready. A bit more than a third will go directly to two- or four-year colleges to continue their education. Others are eager to join the workforce now.

Yet, too many students do not make it for one reason or another. Fewer of our high school graduates are moving directly into full time college. For those who want to work now, the unemployment rate for youths 16-24 years of age is about 25 percent, or three times the average for all workers.

Saint Thomas Aquinas warned teachers against digging ditches in front of students that are not filled in. Well the same goes for school board directors. In education, it is our job to find solutions to problems, not just find problems.

It is our responsibility to help all children be successful. We must continue to find innovative ways to reach all children. This means both thinking outside of the box and sorting out what works and doing it. The governance of public education is our responsibility.

Public education may have its flaws, but our children's hopes and dreams depend on us to set aside our differences and forge alliances that enable us to advocate for their future.

Failure is not an option!

Inslee signs WSSDA-initiated bill



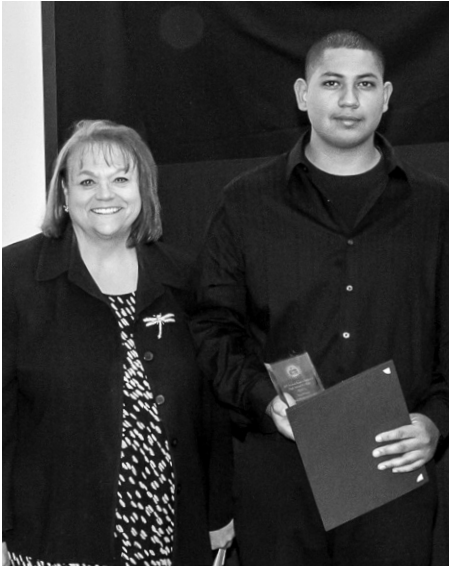
Governor Jay Inslee signed ESHB 1633 into law on May 14. The bill was initiated by WSSDA and sponsored by former Issaquah School Director, Representative Chad Magendanz. WSSDA's staff members Jonelle Adams, Will Clark, Marie Sullivan and Nan Laughton all attended the signing.



Follow us on Twitter

www.twitter.com/wssda

Washington state high school artists honored



WSSDA's Executive Director, Jonelle Adams selected Jonathan Navarro's piece, "Renacimiento de Primavera" as one of the winners of the annual art event.

In conjunction with Art Education Month, 15 young artists from across the state were honored in May as state winners in the OSPI annual art show.

WSSDA's Jonelle Adams selected the work of Jonathan Navarro of Toppenish High School to add to its permanent collection. Navarro's teacher, Laura Wise, was also honored at the award show.

"Renacimiento de Primavera," the artwork chosen by WSSDA, is done in graphite.

"The drawing seemed to capture the richness of our students' diversity and cultural heritage that make up our schools today," said Jonelle Adams on why she chose the artwork.

State Superintendent Randy Dorn hosted the 40th Annual Superintendent's High School Art Show in Olympia last month. The event honored 114 regional winners and their teachers from across the state who exhibited exceptional efforts in visual arts. Of the regional winners, 15 were selected as state winners.

In February, regional high school art shows were held in each of the nine Educational Service Districts (ESDs) across the state. The winning pieces from each regional show were forwarded to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), where they competed to be a state winner.

The artwork was judged upon originality, demonstration of expressive thinking, unique solutions to artistic problems, understanding and ability to interpret the elements and principles of visual art, and competency in using the chosen medium.

Each state-level winning artwork was purchased for \$200 by organizations that will display it in their permanent collections. The organizations purchasing artwork this year are OSPI, State Board of Education, Professional Educators

Standards Board, Washington Association of School Administrators, Washington State School Directors' Association, ArtsEd Washington, Association of Washington School Principals, Washington State PTA, and Washington Art Education Association.

A Tribute Award selected each year by the Washington Art Education Association is given to outstanding arts educators, arts advocates, and businesses nominated by the WAEA membership. This year's recipient was Deborah Barton, an art teacher from Kamiak High School in Mukilteo.



Free school board candidate workshops offered in June

We encourage all school board candidates to attend our free workshop covering the fundamentals of school board service, board/superintendent roles, legal requirements for school boards, and tips for effective leadership. The two-hour workshops, held from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at each location, give participants the opportunity to learn about education reform efforts at the state and national levels. Register online at www.wssda.org.

June 10

Director Area 4, Sequim
Sequim School District (Board Room)
503 North Sequim Avenue
Sequim, WA 98382

June 10

Director Area 7, Wenatchee
North Central ESD
(Ponderosa Room)
430 Olds Station Road
Wenatchee, WA 98801-1847

June 11

Director Area 9, Spokane
Support Services Center
2815 E. Garland Avenue
Spokane, WA 99207

June 11

Director Area 1, Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon High School (Auditorium)
314 North 9th Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

June 12

Director Area 2, Renton
Renton School District (Board Room)
300 SW 7th Street
Renton, WA 98057

June 12

Director Area 11, Pasco
Pasco School District (Board Room)
1215 W. Lewis Street
Pasco, WA 99301-7104

June 13

Director Area 8, Yakima
ESD 105 (Yakima Room)
33 South 2nd Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

June 19

Director Area 5, Olympia
WSSDA Conference Center
221 College Street NE
Olympia, WA 98516

SIDEBAR

The divide of a community

The Grand Coulee Dam, one of the many ambitious public works projects of President Roosevelt's New Deal, was intended to provide a source of cheap power to boost an entire region of the country and irrigate the drought ridden farm lands of central Washington.

The building of the dam provided much needed employment opportunities for the displaced workers of the Great Depression. The project is thought to have created up to 8,800 jobs and contributed to an improved economy in Washington as well as many surrounding states.

While many citizens enjoyed the splendors of the finished dam, the lives of the Colville Indians were forever changed. Dislocated by the reservoir, their sacred burial grounds were submerged and more than 1,100 miles of salmon spawning grounds were obliterated.

Before the Grand Coulee Dam was completed in 1941, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation centered their lives around Columbia River salmon. The most sacred ceremonies of Indian life, along with work, feasting and recreation, revolved around the summer migration of salmon. Without salmon, the Colville Tribes were hit hard. Rates of suicide, alcoholism, drug-addiction, divorce and death soared to stunning levels.

After years in court with the federal government, the tribe was eventually compensated with a lump settlement of approximately \$53 million, plus annual payments of approximately \$15 million. A modest piece of the pie compared to the amount of power and money generated yearly from the dam.



The Grand Coulee School District was granted \$32 million to go forward with a new K-12 facility. The new school is being built on the same site as a formerly mothballed elementary school that has since been demolished.

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the capacity to pass the bonds necessary to build new schools. Without local funding, the district had been unable to qualify for state funding.

The students had to settle with inferior learning conditions while the district worked with federal and state agencies to obtain funding. Five years ago, the situation finally came to a head. Officials discovered that the aging transformers at the high school were cause for serious concern. The rattling, oil-filled transformers were at serious risk of malfunctioning, or worse, exploding.

At the same time, former school board chair Donna DeWinkler invited congressional and legislative leaders to visit the district and see first-hand the sad condition of the schools. Senator Linda Evans Parlette went to bat for the district and was granted \$500,000 from the state to replace the vintage transformers with safer, electric transformers.

As part of the grant, the district was able to use some of the money to determine costs for a new K-12 building. However, Senator Parlette could not go forward with further requests for funding until she could show community support for the district-wide project.

In any number of districts, working together as a community to support a new

school would be a simple task. But the Grand Coulee School District that serves students from five very distinct communities — Electric City, Grand Coulee, Coulee Dam, Elmer City and the Colville Indian Reservation — is rife with tension (see sidebar). This would not be easy.

Road to repair

School Superintendent Dennis Carlson had his work cut out for him when he began in 2010. With plans already under way for a new K-12 school, his job would be to bring the community together and garner support for this big effort. Carlson met with each of the district's county commissions and got a letter of support for the project from each one. It wasn't long before more and more organizations announced their support as well. Carlson and members of the school board also traveled to Washington, D.C. three times to keep their plight on the front burner with their congressional delegates.

The Grand Coulee Rotary Club established the "Our Schools, Their Future" fundraising campaign and took on a lead role, allowing its tax-free status to be used for tax-deductible donations. Spaghetti feeds were held to not only raise money, but to

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At the formal groundbreaking ceremony, members of the Colville Indian Reservation performed in a drum circle tribute to the new school.

encourage community interaction. A once-divided community now had a reason to come together as one. All told, the rotary club raised an astounding \$13,000 for a community of just over 4,000 people. The overwhelming support was enough to convince lawmakers to listen.

In April 2012, the Washington State Legislature inserted \$17 million in the capital budget to build the new school. The district was finally able to qualify for another \$14 million from OSPI's School Construction Assistance Program, giving the district a grand total of \$31 million to go forward with construction.

The chosen site was well-vetted by architects evaluating infrastructure, risk and location. The new building will be located within the boundaries of the Colville Indian Reservation and at the center of the entire service area.

Because the school is located on the reservation, there were some extra considerations that had to be met. Not only did the project have to meet both city and state regulations, it was required to meet tribal land use planning considerations. A Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance gave preference to qualified Indians in all aspects such as employment and contracting. To show they were partners in the project, the tribe stepped forward and offered to waive standard fees on construction, saving the district more than \$1 million.

A new culture

Six-hundred and sixty students from kindergarten through grade 12 will move to the new school when it opens in the fall. With all grade levels in one location, the district is preparing for a major transformation in culture. Staff will have more opportunities for joint training and collaboration and students will be able to move between grade levels based on ability and achievement.

In Carlson's perspective as an educator for over 40 years, this is a once in a career opportunity. "I've seen where new buildings will change things at an elementary level or a middle school level, but to completely change the culture of a district, I've never seen that."

Board members Joette Barry, Ken "Butch" Stanger, Carla Marconi and Ted Piccolo all turned out for the formal groundbreaking in late April. Many others from the community attended as well as tribal drummers that performed a tribute to the new project.

Carlson's message to other districts that are up against similar frustrations is simple, "Don't give up hope. Just keep telling your story." Eventually the right person will listen.

Heidi Maynard

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND LEGAL SERVICES

Summer is policy making season

Here in the Policy and Legal Department of WSSDA, we've got our work cut out for us this summer.

As usual, we have several updates based on recent events in districts around the state. Then we've got new WACs and policies that are either newly finished or close to being so, such as Highly Capable Programs and Sex Offender Notification in Schools. Add to that the new laws from the 2013 legislative session that require several revisions to our current policies. Finally, we've got the bills that, as of this writing, are still pending in the Legislature's first special session, including the "mutual consent" bill, SB 5895, and the "discipline bill," SB 5244.

As a result, we plan to issue three — rather than two — issues of *Policy and Legal News* this summer, with apologies in advance to the superintendents and their diligent policy staffs!

In our June issue, we are planning revisions to the following policies and procedures:

- 1220, Board Officers and Duties of Board Members
- 3432, Emergencies
- 4260, Use of School Facilities
- 3231, Student Records
- 6620, Bid Requirements

July will have a "health and safety" theme and will likely include revisions to:

- 3412, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)
- 3420, Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response (revised according to the new Epi-pen law)
- 3418, Emergency Treatment
- 3246, Use of Reasonable Force
- 2125, Sexual Health Education
- 3421, Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Prevention
- 2190, Highly Capable Programs
- 6800, Safety, Operations and Maintenance of School Property
- 4200, Safe and Orderly Learning Environment

Our August "back to school" issue is currently slated to include revisions to:

- 4310, Relations with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Agencies and the County Health Dept. (revised to include a protocol for third party presence at student interviews/interrogations in sexual abuse and neglect investigations)
- 2170, Career and Technical Education
- 2410, High School Graduation Requirements (adding language to encourage student community service through incentives).

The above schedule is subject to change. One final note, on June 9 the Senate passed SB 5945, which includes sending the "mutual consent" process to a referendum in November. If this bill passes the House and is voted into law, it will have a significant impact on policy and procedure 5240, Staff Evaluation (also known as TPEP), as we previously cautioned in the April issue of *Policy and Legal News*. Fasten your seatbelts.

This legal column may present general information about the Revised Code of Washington, the Washington Administrative Code and/or other legal authority which should not be construed as legal advice. You should seek professional counsel before acting upon any information or comments in this e-mail. No information is to be considered to represent the position of WSSDA on any specific legal matter. In addition, by merely contacting WSSDA, you will not establish an attorney-client relationship. All communications with WSSDA are subject to public records request under Title 40, RCW and cannot be treated as confidential or protected.

WSSDA Direct is published monthly by the Washington State School Directors' Association to provide information of interest to school directors and the education community. The views expressed in opinion articles appearing in WSSDA Direct are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent WSSDA policies or positions. If you have a disability and need this publication in an alternate format, please contact the WSSDA Communications Department.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 5** Candidate Workshop, Kelso
- 10** Candidate Workshop, Sequim
- 10** Candidate Workshop, Wenatchee
- 11** Candidate Workshop, Mount Vernon
- 11** Candidate Workshop, Spokane
- 12** Candidate Workshop, Renton
- 12** Candidate Workshop, Pasco
- 13** Candidate Workshop, ESD 105
- 18** WSSDA Webinar: 2013 Legislative Session Summary
- 19** Candidate Workshop, Olympia

- 21-22** Legislative Committee Meeting
- 21-22** Board of Directors' Meeting

July

- 19-20** Legislative Committee Meeting
- 21-22** Board of Directors' Meeting

August

- 14** WSSDA Webinar: How to use policy in your district
- 23-25** Board of Directors' Meeting

September

- 17** WSSDA Webinar: Understanding student achievement
- 19-21** Legislative Assembly
- 19** Board of Directors' Meeting
- 19** Legislative Committee Meeting

October

- 16** WSSDA Webinar: Avoiding conflicts of interest
- 26** Legislative Committee Meeting

November

- 21-24** WSSDA Annual Conference