



# Direct

Washington State School Directors' Association

OCTOBER 2013



President-elect, Mari Taylor visits with students at Cascade View Elementary School during the annual Innovative Schools Tour held during the Legislative Assembly.

## INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS TOUR

### "Whatever-it-takes" mentality drives Tukwila School District's success

**Y**ou don't have to look further than Tukwila to find a school district grappling with many of the challenges facing American education today.

These include a rapidly changing population, an influx of immigrants and refugees who often lack English language skills, tremendous multicultural diversity, poverty, and suburban change, to name a few.

School directors from the across the state traveled to the community by school bus during WSSDA's annual Innovative Schools tour during this year's Legislative Assembly. What the directors found was a district that understands the challenges, but

embraces them as opportunity.

The tour included stops at two schools, Cascade View Elementary and Foster High (see feature story next month). School board members not only heard the fast facts on demographics and achievement gains, but saw first-hand in the classroom how Tukwila educators are using both large and small innovations to promote learning.

#### Just the facts

First, a few facts about Cascade View Elementary's population:

- Students speak more than 45 languages and dialects.
- Many students speak more than

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Funding, professional development top priorities

**M**ore than 150 school directors gathered in SeaTac September 20 and 21 to adopt a legislative agenda for 2014, prioritize 98 positions, and learn about hot education topics.

Following the Saturday voting, full funding for basic education earned the most votes, followed by state funding for professional development, sustainable revenue, and a schedule of funding phased in by 2018. Also breaking into the top 10 this year were funding for common core and the new evaluation system, two of the most significant reforms adopted by the Legislature in the past couple of years.

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Washington State Supreme Court Justice Debra L. Stephens, author of the McCleary decision, kicked off the 2013 Legislative Assembly. Justice Stephens explained the court's thinking behind the decision during her presentation.

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New selection of early bird workshops for Annual Conference

ADAMS: Preparing our youth for both work and college



PRESIDENT  
**Debbie Long**

## Uphill battle for school funding worth every penny

**F**rom its earliest days as a state, Washington has emphasized the importance of basic education. Many of our greatest strengths stem from our investment in an educated population. For too many years we have shortchanged our children's right to a basic education.

Just over two years ago, the Washington State Supreme Court agreed with what teachers and parents have been advocating for years. The Legislature has a mandate to fund basic education at a level that ensures all children in Washington can obtain the education and skills they need to get good jobs in this 21st century economy.

Last year, the Legislature made a down payment on this promise. We appreciate that legislators spent time and effort on funding education, but it wasn't enough. When we look at the purported \$1 billion, it really isn't a billion once you peel away the non-basic education activities. Moreover, legislators added strings to much of the money. For example, funding slated for K-1 has to be spent on lowering class size, even if it is not an issue at your school, and Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funds have to be spent on K-3 reading proficiency.

While most of us agree that lowering class size is good for students, it does come at a cost to many school districts. Policy decisions like full-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, and 24-credit diplomas put pressure on facilities.

At Central Valley School District, we recently had to purchase five portables for these specific requirements and two more for growth. At \$150,000 a pop, this isn't cheap. We totally agree that smaller class sizes are a benefit for our children, but to make this a requirement without providing money for facilities just takes from other equally important areas.

Today, funding per pupil is actually less than in the 2008-09 school year, when the legislature redefined basic education in an effort to improve the K-12 system. The Legislature cut education in both the 2009-11 and 2011-13 bienniums. Most districts aren't breaking even, yet.

To get to full and ample funding by 2018 will be an uphill battle. But it is worth every penny. As we continue forward, we must hold our legislators to their promises and the court's decision. All of our children need to be given the opportunity to succeed.

On behalf of our children, thank you for all you have done.

## LEADERSHIP WSSDA

### Program open for registration

It's that time of the year which marks both a beginning and an ending for participants in the association's Leadership WSSDA program.

On November 21, fifteen school directors will graduate from Leadership WSSDA. They will have spent 10 days together in class, learning from WSSDA staff, guest speakers, and each other. They will also have read and discussed four books, and researched and presented a team project. At the same time, the program is now accepting applicants for next year's class.

As always, the 2013 effort garnered high marks from participants. Participant Paul Wageman said of his experience, "Leadership WSSDA is an opportunity to discuss and share thoughts and ideas that sometimes do not happen in our local boards. Great learning experience."

Michelle Perry, class of 2013 graduate said, "One of the most valuable aspects of leadership was making connections and developing relationships with diverse boards across the state."

You can learn more about the program and access the application online at [www.wssda.org](http://www.wssda.org). Click **Services, Leadership Development** and then **Leadership WSSDA**.

Applications will be accepted through January 3, 2014.

## WSSDA needs your energy and enthusiasm

**C**onsider bringing your energy and enthusiasm to WSSDA leadership.

A number of board and committee member positions are up for election each year. Nominations and voting will occur during the director area caucus meetings at the WSSDA Annual Conference November 23.

You can view the list of open positions on the WSSDA elections web page. Visit our website, [www.wssda.org](http://www.wssda.org), and click **About Us**, then **Officers/Board of Directors** and **WSSDA Elections 2013**.

You also have the opportunity to volunteer for task forces and committees with appointed positions. Download our *Member Involvement and Interest Form* from our website under the **About Us** tab.



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# Run-off election set for WSSDA Vice President

**M**arnie Maraldo of Issaquah and Chris Nation of Marysville were the top two finishers in the WSSDA election for vice president. Because neither candidate received a majority of all ballots cast, the association's bylaws call for a run-off election.

Check your email beginning Friday, October 4, for complete voting instructions including information on how to log in. The run-off election closes Friday, October 18. Please contact [c.lauderdale@wssda.org](mailto:c.lauderdale@wssda.org) if you did not receive your voting credentials.

In an uncontested race, Chris Nieuwenhuis from the Riverside School Board has been elected as the 2014 president-elect.

Visit our website for more information on candidates.

## RUN-OFF: VICE PRESIDENT

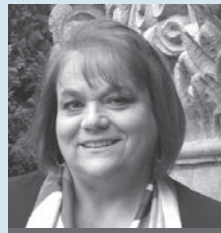
Candidates for Vice President, Marnie Maraldo and Chris Nation face a run-off election starting October 4.



# Fall regional meetings kick off in Wenatchee



WSSDA began the first of 11 regional meetings in Wenatchee. The agenda was filled with presentations from Ken Kanikeburg, OSPI, Bunker Frank, SBE, Senator Linda Evans Parlette, and Representatives Cary Condotta and Brad Hawkins.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Jonelle Adams**

# Preparing our youth for both college and work

**W**e are very fortunate to have Harvard's Ronald Ferguson as a keynote speaker at this year's Annual Conference. Dr. Ferguson is both co-director of the Pathways to Prosperity Project at the Graduate School of Education and director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University.

That is quite a pedigree.

One of his greatest strengths is in engaging broad collaborations involving many people. His work on Pathways to Prosperity has been integral to a growing discussion of how we prepare some two-thirds of all young people who do not complete four-year college degrees.

We plan to take full advantage of his appearance, starting right now. WSSDA has partnered with Thoughtstream, a firm that specializes in group engagement using simple, digital tools like email.

As this edition of the Direct goes to press, Thoughtstream is preparing to send you an email with more details, including the four questions below.

1. What steps do we need to take as a district, region or state to ensure our youth have multiple pathways to success as adults?
2. What challenges need to be addressed to ensure our youth can access multiple pathways to success?
3. What promising initiatives or activities can be reproduced as we develop school systems to support more pathways to success?
4. Is there anything you would like to add?

Please consider the questions above. You may also want to review the full [Pathways to Prosperity Report](#) and a short summary from Harvard's magazine *Ed*, available on our website.

Thoughtstream's email, scheduled to be sent on October 7, is the first step in the process of gathering your ideas. Thoughtstream will organize that information and provide it in advance to Dr. Ferguson, who will then use it to build his talk for our conference.

This is a model and process that I saw unfold at a recent Pathways conference at Harvard. It is informative and exciting to watch. And, hopefully, it will help us galvanize our thinking on this important subject. So please help us develop our own Thoughtstream. Its value will hinge upon your participation.

## Heidi Maynard

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND LEGAL SERVICES

### What districts need to know about working with transgender students

In October, WSSDA will release a model policy and procedure to guide districts in appropriate treatment of transgender students at school. WSSDA has partnered with OSPI's Office of Equity and Civil Rights to craft a policy that will address all the questions frequently asked by districts: "Do we have to allow a transgender student to use the locker room of their choice?" "What about student records?" and "What do we say to parents of non-transgender students who don't want their kid changing in a room with someone of the opposite biological sex?"

For districts, the price of ignoring these issues and hoping they will go away is high. Doing so creates a breeding ground for harassment, intimidation and bullying of the transgender student, threatening the learning environment and positions the district for discrimination lawsuits.

Washington state law and each district's required nondiscrimination policy require that all programs, activities and employment practices be conducted without discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity.

WSSDA's model policy and procedure identifies the areas with the highest risk for non-compliance: student records, use of names/pronouns, restroom accessibility, locker rooms, sports/P.E. classes, dress codes, gender segregation, harassment, and complaint filing.

WSSDA's purpose in issuing a model policy and procedure is to encourage districts to take a preemptive, rather than a reactive approach to these issues. Setting a tone of inclusion and communicating in a way that supports that tone goes a long way toward preventing misunderstandings and perceived stereotypes. The policy is intended to assist districts in their quest to provide a safe, respectful learning environment for all students.

## WASHINGTON SCHOOL BOARDS' EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

# Supporting leadership in public education

BY CINDY KELLY

Founded in 1986, Washington School Boards' Educational Foundation's mission is to recognize and support school board directors so they become effective in their district. Two ways of helping school board directors are to help them pay for Leadership WSSDA and the WSSDA Annual Conference.

Leadership WSSDA offers committed school directors from across the state the opportunity to work closely together, sharing ideas and experiences throughout a year-long course. Participants experience in-depth discussions in an informal setting, grapple with issues and solutions firsthand, and share innovative district programs with fellow board members.

So how can you help support the foundation? Please consider either bringing an item to the silent auction at WSSDA's Annual Conference and joining Friends of the Foundation.

At WSSDA's Annual Conference, we will once again hold a silent auction and we are in need of baskets to be bid on. We challenge every district to bring at least one basket that can be auctioned off.

In addition, this year we are starting Friends of the Foundation. This will be an annual donation towards strengthening school board directors across our state with professional development.

Friends will have three levels of participation: \$10.00, Bronze; \$25.00, Silver; and \$50.00, Gold. Of course, we will gladly accept any amount that you wish to donate. Just put a number on your check and mail it to Washington School Boards' Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 644, Battleground, Washington, 98604-0644.

We look forward to seeing you at our booth at WSSDA's Annual Conference. Our featured drum circle returns with Jamtown which brings a high energy interactive hands-on drum and small percussion program on Friday, November 22 from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Join us and feel the power as everyone works together in a rock, rhythm orchestra

For further information about the foundation, visit [www.wasbef.org](http://www.wasbef.org).

CINDY KELLY is President of the Washington School Boards' Educational Foundation.

## Seeking FRN members

WSSDA is seeking members for its Federal Relations Network (FRN), a component of a nationwide network of school directors under the National School Boards Association.

Washington's FRN members communicate with their members of Congress on education issues. Mailings from NSBA and WSSDA help FRN members stay current on federal education activities.

Many FRN members will travel to Washington, D.C. in February to hear from NSBA experts and meet with their congressional members on education issues. Each member's school district covers the costs of the trip.

Members are appointed by WSSDA's president-elect prior to the Annual Conference, November 21-24.

To join FRN, please send an email to Nan Laughton at [n.laughton@wssda.org](mailto:n.laughton@wssda.org) no later than November 1st. For more information, contact Nan via email or by phone at 360-252-3011.

A new issue also emerged: changing school bond approval requirements to a simple majority. The proposal was submitted by the Pioneer School District, and in a preliminary post-Assembly count, sat at number five on the priority list. The full list will be available on the WSSDA web site by mid-October.

The WSSDA Legislative Committee will meet October 26 to discuss the prioritized list of positions and recommend a few issues of focus for 2014. The WSSDA Board will discuss those recommendations and direct staff on legislative and budget priority issues.

**McCleary author addresses Assembly**

Kicking off the Friday afternoon presentations, Washington State Supreme Court Justice Debra L. Stephens explained the Court’s thinking behind the McCleary decision and why the Court maintained jurisdiction. Stephens was the author of the decision, and is a former school director from the Orchard Prairie School District.

“There is no place for the Court to hide when it comes to a child’s right to an education,” said Stephens as she explained Article IX of the State Constitution and previous court rulings.

Other Friday afternoon speakers included Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, Governor’s Office Senior Policy Advisor Marcie Maxwell, and Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos and Lillian Ortiz-Self, co-chairs of the Educational

Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. In addition to Santos, the legislative panel included Sen. Bruce Dammeier, R-Puyallup, Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe, D-Bothell, and Rep. Chad Magendanz, R-Issaquah.

**Three weighted votes and a tie**

Delegates adopted 52 new position statements. Three of the four proposals that failed to gain a simple majority of votes also went to a “weighted vote,” a process under which the number of district votes is based on the FTE student count.

While weighted votes aren’t unusual, the count on a proposal to extend state financial assistance programs to students who are on a pathway to citizenship tied at 148 For and 148 Against. According to parliamentarian Mary Randolph, Legislative Committee Chair Danny Edwards (Riverview) — as the presiding official — was allowed to break a tie. Edwards cast the final “no” vote based on the committee’s “Do Not Pass” recommendation.

Edwards said it was a tough vote, but illustrated the importance of all districts attending the Assembly and voting for proposals that they favored or opposed. “In this case, one more district voting in favor would have tipped the balance a different way. It would be great if every district sent a representative to the next Assembly.”

The 2014 Legislative Assembly is September 18-20 in Yakima at the Red Lion Hotel.



**Top 10 for 2014**

1. **Full funding of basic education (SLP\* 7.1.12)**
2. **Professional development**
3. **Sustainable revenue for education funding**
4. **Prioritizing funding of 2261 requirements**
5. **School bond approval**
6. **Common Core Funding**
7. **Levy equalization/levy lid (SLP 7.1.1)**
8. **Evaluation system implementation**
9. **Unfunded Mandates (SLP 7.2.1)**
10. **MSOC funding (SLP 7.1.2)**

\*Standing Legislative Position (SLP)



## FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS

**October 1**  
DIRECTOR AREA 7  
Wenatchee

**October 3**  
DIRECTOR AREA 1  
Mount Vernon

**October 7**  
DIRECTOR AREA 9  
East Valley

**October 8**  
DIRECTOR AREA 10  
Pullman

**October 9**  
DIRECTOR AREA 8  
Sunnyside

**October 10**  
DIRECTOR AREA 11  
Waitsburg

**October 12**  
DIRECTOR AREA 4  
Crescent

**October 15**  
DIRECTOR AREA 3  
Clover Park

**October 23**  
DIRECTOR AREA 6  
Washougal

**October 29**  
DIRECTOR AREA 2  
Seattle

**October 30**  
DIRECTOR AREA 5  
Olympia

Visit [www.wssda.org/events/regionalmeetings](http://www.wssda.org/events/regionalmeetings) to reserve your spot.

Contact Terri Eixenberger at 360.25.3002 or [t.eixenberger@wssda.org](mailto:t.eixenberger@wssda.org) for questions.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Early bird workshops and reception new this year

The WSSDA Annual Conference is just around the corner. Join us in Bellevue November 21-24 for top-notch speakers, numerous learning opportunities, and the chance to exchange ideas with fellow leaders in education.

Early bird workshops on Thursday, November 21 offer a variety of topics and include a special pre-conference dinner reception and presentation by Dr. Robert Brooks on "Raising a Self-disciplined Child."

Dr. Brooks will outline an approach to raising children that are confident, independent and happy. This compelling message is for parents, grandparents, and others involved in nurturing children.

The presentation is preceded by a dinner reception with no-host bar. Dr. Brooks specifically requested this opportunity for casual conversation and shared learning. Attendees may also enter a free raffle for a copy of his book on the evening's topic.

Please note that Dr. Brooks will give a completely different opening keynote on Friday morning. "The Power of Mindsets: Creating a Positive School Climate" will focus on how school directors can help create the environment for 21st century learning to take place.

Thursday's reception and presentation are included in the cost for all early bird workshop registrations. Tickets to the pre-conference reception are available for \$40. Purchase tickets online through conference registration.

#### Exciting new early bird workshops

Consider the benefits of having a full day to explore one of the hot topics covered in early bird workshops. Some may be familiar, such as New Board Boot Camp, Legislative Boot Camp, or Secrets of Highly Effective School Boards with Dr. Tom Alsbury. Others are being offered for the first time this year and are described below. Visit our website for full descriptions of early bird workshops.

#### Engaging Students in the Field with STEM

*Dr. Margaret Tudor, Executive Director, Pacific Education Institute*

The Pacific Education Institute expands students' opportunities to learn in real-world settings. Their rigorous, research-based approach assures that students are "learning by doing." Attend this early bird workshop for information on how to provide STEM-related professional development opportunities for teachers. Participants will also discover how to engage students in real world STEM projects that will contribute to their sustainable future.

#### Advanced Manufacturing through CTE and Core-Plus

*David Gehring, Executive Director, Manufacturing Industrial Council*

This workshop incorporates site visits to highlight the new statewide CTE/Core Plus curriculum for advanced manufacturing. You will tour the Boeing 737 manufacturing plant in Renton, where workers produced 411 commercial jetliners in 2012. This site is seldom available for public tours. You will also visit the revamped machine shop at Rainier Beach High School in Seattle, where Core Plus is available as an Aerospace Technology program. Learn how your school district can easily adopt the new career-related, STEM-based curriculum that was developed and validated by industry in partnership with OSPI.

#### Focusing on Early Learning - P-3

*Dr. Jonelle Adams, WSSDA Executive Director*  
Accessible, accountable, and developmentally and culturally appropriate opportunities are needed to support families and ensure that every child is healthy, capable, and confident in school and in life. This interactive session will help school directors understand the Washington State Early Learning Plan. The plan is designed to build a solid foundation for success based on strong families and a world class early learning system for all children, prenatal through grade 3. Various topics will be explored by guest speakers from OSPI, Department of Early Learning, and Institute for Learning and Brain Sciences at the University of Washington.

#### Personalized conference schedule with SCHED

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one language.

- The school includes more than 100 refugees from around the world.
- More than 60 percent of students are English Language Learners (ELL).
- Nearly 90 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunches.

The community was designated a settlement area for refugees about a decade ago and that led to both increased immigration and a more transient population — Tukwila for many families is the first stop for many on their way to somewhere else. It is the place where many students start behind grade level and need to catch up. But what some might see as an obstacle, Principal Jeff Baker views as a strength.

“If you are lifting the lowest level learners, you are going to catch everyone in the process,” said Baker, who is starting his eighth year at Cascade View. “We have a talented staff focused on teaching and learning in a diverse environment.”

### Coaches for language and math

The school has three coaches who each focus on a key area of learning for students. These include learning the English language, literary skills and math. Cascade View also has a social worker, Anne Marie Littleton, who meets regularly with refugee organizations and others in the areas to help the school serve the whole child.

Along with traditional academics, the school focuses on developing secondary skills such as cooperative and independent learning. They monitor student growth carefully, intervene when appropriate, and focus on what they call “intentionality” — thinking carefully through what they want to accomplish and how to do it.

“We are always working on the individual needs so no kid falls through the cracks,” said Katrina Dohn, the math coach. “There is a no single magic bullet. We have a whatever-it-takes philosophy.”

This includes a “Math Mastery” program that recognizes each student when he or she gains new skills, students who come to school early to catch up on missing skills, and peer-based teaching of individual math facts to free up the teacher’s time for other learning.

### ELL certificates for teachers

The district has an on-going relationship

with Toppenish-based Heritage University as part of its ELL efforts. More than half of all staff are ELL endorsed, many through Heritage’s intensive, year-long course.

“It’s an amazing program,” Dohn said. “You can’t come out of it the same teacher you were when you walked in.”

They also cultivate broader understanding, bringing in community members to talk as part of culture panels and tap National Geographic and federal refugee programs, according to Abby Stark, the ELL coach.

The school also focuses on professional development for their para-educators, who play a big role at Cascade View in helping students who are behind their peers.

In the classroom, the success is easy to see. Children from across the world work together, helping each other and staying engaged as skilled teachers direct the

action. But the numbers also tell the story.

“Cascade View consistently outperforms what the demographics would predict,” said Dave Larson of the Tukwila School Board, who also serves as resident numbers expert.

Larson noted that some surrounding communities, such as Auburn, have experienced similar challenges and credits them with high levels of success, as well. But his statistical focus is on those in his district.

The school has exceptional ELL math scores and has had high achievement gains in both math and reading. Overall, it had an exemplary rating this past year in the State Board of Education’s achievement index.

“The Cascade View students and staff have achieved some amazing results so far,” said School Director Larson. “But we know they are capable of even higher academic achievement levels.”



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 1 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 7 Wenatchee
3 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 1 Mount Vernon
7 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 9 East Valley
8 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 10 Pullman
9 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 8 Sunnyside
10 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 11 Waitsburg
12 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 4 Crescent

- 15 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 3 Clover Park
16 WSSDA Webinar: Sexual offenders in school - What districts need to know
23 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 6 Washougal
26 Legislative Committee Meeting
29 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 2 Seattle
30 Fall Regional Meeting\* Director Area 5 Olympia

\*Each regional meeting is preceded by a two-hour workshop on Common Core.

November

- 21-24 WSSDA Annual Conference