



Budget differences force overtime

K-12 funding in the crosshairs as special legislative session looks for budget agreement

Education funding remained a major sticking point as state lawmakers returned to Olympia April 26 for a special legislative session focused on adopting a state operating budget for the coming biennium.

In the regular session which adjourned April 22, the House and Senate were unable to reach agreement on a plan to close a projected deficit of about \$5.3 billion in the next two-year budget. The special session was convened by Gov. Chris Gregoire, who said it was her intent that deliberations would be limited to the budget and policy bills needed to implement the budget.

The governor, however, cannot limit what the Legislature discusses, so other issues could still be in play. Under the state constitution, special legislative sessions are limited to 30 days.

As this issue of *WSSDA Direct* went to press, negotiations were continuing on how to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget. The House version proposes to cut state spending by approximately \$4.4 billion, while the Senate plan calls for deeper cuts of about \$4.8 billion.

Funding for public schools continued as a significant item of dispute in the budget deliberations, especially in the area of salaries. The House plan called for freezing teacher salary “step” increases to save about \$56 million, while the Senate proposal aimed to save \$251 million through a three percent reduction in all K-12 employee salaries—a plan that would force local districts to cover the loss through district funds or by enacting employee furloughs, reducing



Members of the state Senate await the convening of the special session April 26.

school days or hours, or renegotiating collective bargaining agreements.

While emphasizing that neither of the budget plans is adequate, WSSDA identified the House version as less harmful to K-12. The association also objected to the Senate’s approach of shifting the responsibility for implementing salary reductions to the district level.

Other key issues are the Senate’s proposal to change the bus depreciation schedule from an annual payment to a lump sum at the end of the life cycle; cuts in both chambers to alternative learning experience funding; and a concern about how the “hold harmless” concept will actually play out in school districts that have high concentrations of poverty and ELL populations.

continued on page 2

Census triggers redistricting process

If your school district has internal director districts, the school board is responsible for reviewing Census data and determining if the director district boundaries need to be adjusted.

School districts have been sent the 2010 Census data by the Washington State Redistricting Commission. Each district has eight months from receipt of the data to develop its plan for redrawing director district boundaries.

If a district's population is still evenly distributed among the existing director districts, the board may retain the current boundaries. If the last ten years have seen imbalances of population between the internal districts, however, new boundaries will be necessary. Under state law, director districts:

- Must be as nearly equal as possible in population
- Must be as compact as possible and geographically contiguous
- Cannot favor or disfavor any race or political party
- Must coincide with natural boundaries and existing communities as much as possible

After the board has developed a plan for new director districts, it must be made available to the public and a public hearing must be held. If a district voter is not satisfied with the new plan, he or she may request a superior court review.

Districts must inform their county auditor and ESD of any changes within 30 days of adoption. Multi-county school districts must also notify the Secretary of State. Plans submitted to the County Auditor after June 27, 2011, will not take effect until 2012. A sitting school board director cannot be unseated by the redrawing of director district boundaries. If it is necessary to redraw a district such that a director no longer resides there, the director may continue to serve out the remainder of his/her term.

WSSDA can provide a sample policy related to the process of redrawing director districts. If you would like a copy, contact Cindy Sands at C.Sands@wssda.org or call 360.252.3018.

Special legislative session

continued from cover

The Legislature adjourned its regular session without passing a state construction budget. Both House and Senate versions fully fund the K-12 school construction assistance account, a state funding program that matches local bonds for school projects.

The Senate has proposed a bill that would ask voters to approve reducing the state's debt limit gradually from nine percent to seven percent. With the debt service payment creeping up to \$2 billion a biennium, and the pinch point between available funds and the debt limit, senators sought a way to stabilize the capital budget and reduce the debt service payments.

Some House members are skeptical of the proposal, mainly because it will initially result in smaller capital budgets. Unlike previous years, the capital budget may be the last thing that is passed.

Please check WSSDA Legislative Updates (wssda.org) or the WSSDA First Reading blog (wssda.org/firstreading) for continuing updates on the special session.

Board candidate workshops offered in July

What does a school board do? What are the responsibilities of school board service, and what does it take to be effective?

School board candidates are invited to attend a free workshop offered throughout the state in July by WSSDA. The two-hour sessions cover the fundamentals of school board service, including board/superintendent roles, legal requirements for school boards, and tips for effective leadership. Participants will also receive an overview of education reform efforts at the state and national levels. (Note: These are not workshops on how to campaign.)

Online resources will be available as well, including WSSDA's popular manual *Serving on Your Local School Board: A Foundation for Success*. The manual and other materials are found at wssda.org/serving.

School Board Candidate Workshops

Monday, July 18	Olympia
Tuesday, July 19	Renton
Wednesday, July 20	Burlington
Monday, July 25	Wenatchee
Tuesday, July 26	Spokane
Wednesday, July 27	Yakima
Thursday, July 28	Vancouver

All workshops take place from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
For locations and driving directions visit wssda.org/serving.

WSSDA Board hears update on strategic plan

Per the association's operating policies, the WSSDA Board of Directors devoted time at last month's meeting to a progress report on the WSSDA strategic plan.

At the April meeting, the board reviewed information on Strategic Goal 1 – Organizational Development and Strategic Goal 2 – Leadership Development.

Goal 1 states that “WSSDA’s organizational structure and culture effectively and efficiently serve school directors and their districts” and includes four strategic objectives related to continuous improvement, resource allocation, product/service development and member relations.

The report on Goal 1 noted that progress is being made in enhancing services and products throughout the association, including steps to develop online policy services for school districts, improve delivery of leadership and advocacy training for school boards, build a new association website, and establish new products and services that add member value and generate non-dues revenue.

Goal 2 states that “WSSDA is the premier provider of accessible and relevant professional development to build school directors’ leadership skills” and includes six strategic objectives related to areas such as online board self-assessment, expanded training opportunities for school boards, and development of standards-based training curricula.

The report on Goal 2 noted that the formation of the Washington School Board Standards has served as a foundation for progress on other projects, including the creation of an online board self-assessment tool (funded through a grant from the Stuart Foundation) that will be available in June, and the ongoing development of curricula and training materials for school board leadership and governance.

WSSDA policy provides for ongoing review of the strategic plan at WSSDA Board meetings. Future reports will focus on the strategic goals for Advocacy, Governance, and Communications.

In other business at the April meeting, the board adopted a resolution supporting Arts Education Month (May) in Washington state (see related articles on page 7), and had the first reading of a proposed change to an association policy on the WSSDA Federal Relations Network. The proposal would remove current language which limits the FRN chair to no more than two consecutive two-year terms.

The next regular meeting of the WSSDA Board of Directors will be held June 24-25 at the WSSDA Conference Center in Olympia. For additional information regarding WSSDA Board meetings, contact WSSDA Executive Director Jonelle Adams at 360.493.9231 or j.adams@wssda.org.

WSSDA seeks officer candidates for 2012

School directors are asked to pay particular attention to the mailing *WSSDA Seeks Officer Candidates for 2012*, which explains the procedure for becoming—or recommending—a candidate for WSSDA President-elect and Vice President.

For 2012, the position of President-elect is open to candidates from throughout the state. The position of Vice President is open to candidates from the west side of the Cascades. Both positions will be voted upon at the WSSDA Annual Conference in November.

Information may be submitted on paper using the forms in the packet, or electronically through the WSSDA website, wssda.org. Suggestions for nominees are due by May 28 and candidate applications are due June 14. Interviews will be held July 30. If you have questions, please contact your Director Area representative on the WSSDA Nominating Committee; a roster is available at wssda.org under “WSSDA Information.” Or, contact Kevin Laverty, Nominating Committee Chair, at 206.498.8726. In the WSSDA office, contact Terri Eixenberger, 360.252.3002.

Broderick elected NSBA president

Long-time Connecticut school board leader Mary Broderick was chosen National School Boards’ Association president at its Annual Conference last month in San Francisco.

Broderick has served the East Lyme Board of Education for many years, working closely with the Connecticut Department of Education on issues ranging from preschool education to teacher recruitment and mental health. As president, Broderick will focus on traits that bolster environments for students to flourish. “Student success must be the priority,” Broderick stated.

Apply for Boards of Distinction



WSSDA encourages every school board to apply for recognition as a Board of Distinction. Most boards conduct annual self-assessments at this time of year. Since you will likely be discussing how your board's actions align with effective governance practices, this is a good time to begin drafting your application for WSSDA's Boards of Distinction program.

Each board which meets the criteria will receive recognition as a Board of Distinction at this year's Annual Conference. The highest scoring board will be honored as the Washington State Board of the Year. Watch for the mailer pictured above later this year, or visit wssda.org > Awards & Recognition for complete details and the application form. Applications are due Sept. 21, 2011.

Childhood asthma guide now available

The American Association of School Administrators and the National School Boards Association (NSBA) have released a guide for families, organizations and school leaders on steps each can take to provide a consistent and supportive environment for children with asthma. *In the Schoolyard and Beyond: Addressing Childhood Asthma in Your Community* was developed in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Division of Adolescent and School Health. The publication is available in English and Spanish, downloadable from NSBA's website.

More than five million children ages 5-17 suffer from asthma, which can be life-threatening if not properly managed. Nearly 13 million school days are missed yearly by students with asthma.

The guide centers on six actions that families, youth-serving organizations, and schools can take to maintain asthma-friendly environments. The recommended actions include reducing asthma triggers, establishing action plans, helping children manage their own medications, encouraging physical activity, maintaining good communication, and providing asthma education.

Download *In the Schoolyard and Beyond: Addressing Childhood Asthma in Your Community* at www.nsba.org/Board-Leadership/SchoolHealth/asthma-page/community-involvement.pdf. Spanish version: www.nsba.org/Board-Leadership/SchoolHealth/asthma-page/Community-Spanish-version.pdf.

Kerber retires from WSSDA staff



Sue Kerber, Assistant Director of WSSDA's Leadership Development Services, retired last month after 21 years of service to school directors.

Kerber began her tenure as communications assistant and later became assistant director of that department. She produced the WSSDA membership newsletter *Signal*, and assisted with writing and design of marketing and informational materials, earning several awards from the Washington School Public Relations Association. Later, Kerber joined the leadership development department, assisting with writing WSSDA's training curriculum. She was involved with WSSDA's strategic planning program, receiving training as a strategic planning consultant. She also helped secure sizeable corporate grants for strategic planning development and created the first program evaluation process.

In 2002, she took on management of the WSSDA Annual Conference and Regional Meetings. As a member of the national Professional Convention Management Association, a network of planners nationwide, she continuously introduced new concepts to improve WSSDA conferences. Sue has participated in NSBA's Council of School Board Association Communicators as well as NSBA Federation Trainers, and presented at each of these groups' conferences.

Kerber's in-depth knowledge of WSSDA's history and programs has been invaluable. WSSDA's Board of Directors and staff congratulate her on a successful career and wish her happiness and adventure in this new phase of her life. Sue and her husband Paul will pursue travel adventures and spend time with grandchildren.

WELCOME, NEW SCHOOL DIRECTORS!

Congratulations and welcome to the following new school directors:

Jerry Ralston, *Brinnon*
Keith Macy, *Centralia*
Rebecca Coleman, *Morton*
Krishna Eveland, *Morton*
Patricia Garrett, *Oroville*
Kelly Lundberg, *St. John*

Thanks and best wishes to those who have recently left board service:

Maree Quade, *Centralia*
Tanya Keel, *McCleary*

Proposals sought for WSSDA positions

Each year school boards are invited to submit their ideas for WSSDA's permanent positions as well as its legislative positions.

Legislative positions: WSSDA's Legislative Committee develops the association's legislative positions by requesting proposals from school boards. The Legislative Representative on each school board has been sent instructions for recommending proposals and positions to be brought by WSSDA to the 2012 legislative session. Legislative Representatives are asked to schedule time on their board's agenda to discuss legislative proposals. Each proposal submitted, unless withdrawn, will be presented to the total membership at the WSSDA 2011 Legislative Assembly Sept. 22-24 in Pasco, where it will be considered for passage and prioritization.

Legislative proposals must be received in the WSSDA office by May 27, 2011. For instructions visit wssda.org > Legislative Information. To avoid duplication, refer to WSSDA's standing legislative positions found at wssda.org > WSSDA Information > Bylaws and Positions. Questions? Contact Sheila Chard at 360.252.3011.

Permanent positions: Delineating WSSDA's beliefs, positions and values as viewed by its members, WSSDA positions are advisory to school boards as well as to other organizations and stakeholders. School directors will be mailed a WSSDA Resolution Proposal Form in June which must be submitted by Friday, August 19; forms will also be posted online at wssda.org. School directors are invited to submit positions to be considered for adoption by the Delegate Assembly during the Annual Conference in November. The call for submittals of permanent positions is coordinated by the WSSDA Resolutions Committee.

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You'll receive links to education stories in state and national daily newspapers and other online news services. To subscribe, go to wssda.org/eclips.

Annual Conference session proposals due May 16



WSSDA Annual Conference November 17 - 20, 2011 Hyatt Regency Bellevue

Help school directors improve their governance skills to meet the demands of today's educational environment. If you have a program, practice or policy with proven success, please share it!

The WSSDA Annual Conference is the largest training opportunity and gathering of school directors in the state. This year's breakout sessions will focus on what school directors need to know and do to provide the highest quality educational leadership possible during these difficult times.

A recent survey of WSSDA's membership showed their top concerns include:

- Increasing student achievement
- Creating conditions for student success
- Doing more with less (efficiency, reorganization)
- Unions and teacher evaluations
- How to exert influence (how to lead) when under so many demands and budget cuts
- Engaging the community in tough decisions
- Improving math outcomes
- Measuring student academic progress and needs
- Student retention/dropout prevention
- Student learning/high expectations
- Improving parent involvement
- Ensuring accountability to the public
- World class schools, innovative examples

Proposals must be submitted online. The deadline for submission is Monday, May 16, 2011.

OSPI releases teacher and principal evaluation data

A total of 289 out of Washington's 295 school districts completed the state's first district-level survey on how teachers and principals are evaluated. The survey data show that 59,022 of 59,481 teachers—and 2,578 of 2,619 principals—were given a satisfactory rating in 2009-10. Currently, most districts use a two-tier system: satisfactory and unsatisfactory; this is true on the national level as well.

Many teachers and administrators agree that current evaluation systems are deeply flawed. Some criticisms are that classroom observations are pre-planned, leading to observations that don't represent typical classroom practices; and feedback isn't provided to teachers and principals until the end of the school year, when it is too late to adjust teaching in response.

Washington has had the same evaluation system for more than 25 years. State law passed in 2010 directed the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a four-tier evaluation system by 2013-14. To get to that new system, the Legislature directed OSPI to develop and pilot different evaluation systems in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Eight districts and one consortium of districts were chosen for the pilots. "This is very important work," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn. "It's work that doesn't just benefit teachers, it benefits students, too. A better evaluation system will lead to better teaching, and better teaching will lead to better learning."

For more information on the pilot programs visit www.k12.wa.us/EdLeg/TPEP/PilotParticipants.aspx.

Six districts will receive federal School Improvement Grants

Six districts have been identified to receive federal School Improvement Grants. Totalling \$4.5 million for the 2011-12 school year, the grants will be used to improve student achievement. The six districts are Burlington-Edison, Marysville, Oakville, Spokane, Toppenish and Wapato.

The districts will work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to finalize a plan and dollar amount for each school to be served. Those schools—and the money they will receive—have been published on the OSPI website. In all, 11 schools from 11 districts applied for the grants and requested around \$13.5 million.

Recipients of the School Improvement Grants had to demonstrate a strong commitment to one of four intervention models: turnaround, restart, closure or transformation. The overall goal of the program is to understand which practices produce the most significant improvements in student achievement, specifically with diverse student populations with large numbers of traditionally underserved students such as Title I students, Native American students, Latino students, ELL students and students living in poverty.

Districts with Title I schools in a step of improvement that were not named grant recipients will work with OSPI to find other grants and services available to help them.

Auburn educator named School Employee of the Year

Carol Barker, Child Nutrition Supervisor for Auburn School District, is the 2011 Washington State Classified School Employee of the Year.

She has been instrumental in Auburn's "Food Revolution" by planning and implementing a district kitchen garden, creating recipes that use whole foods and engaging students and community partners in the care of the garden and orchard. Next year, Barker will help administer a new grant from King County Public Health to train 500 child nutrition employees across the region in whole food cooking. This fall she was a speaker at the 2010 End Childhood Hunger Summit in Seattle.

Barker was honored with eight regional finalists in a ceremony last month.

WSSDA, the social network



Sign up for a Twitter account and receive WSSDA's "tweets"—brief updates on education news and association activities. Visit twitter.com/wssda.



Find us on Facebook

Find us at Facebook.com/wssda and click on "Like." (You must be a Facebook member: Sign up to be a member at Facebook.com.)



WSSDA provides updates on the Legislature and state government through its blog *First Reading*, found at wssda.org/firstreading. You also have the option of signing up to follow the blog by e-mail or RSS feeds.

WSSDA Board endorses Arts Education Month



Grass Land, by M. Filan, Walla Walla High School, was one of several winners in Washington's annual Superintendent's High School Art Show (see full color image at website in last paragraph below.)

WSSDA's Board of Directors has approved a resolution proclaiming May as Arts Education Month. ArtsEd Washington has put together a comprehensive toolkit to assist school boards

and districts in this effort. The toolkit is available at www.artsedwashington.org/news-events/arts-education-month/aem-tool-kit. It offers sample speaking points, letters, resolutions, and proclamations that help make it easy to connect with district and community leaders.

WSSDA's resolution stresses that the arts are the embodiment of much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and that learning in the arts enhances and enriches students' lives and improves their creativity and problem-solving skills. The resolution called upon schools and communities to provide all children with the quality arts education they deserve.

To view the winners' gallery of Washington's annual Superintendent's High School Art Show, visit www.k12.wa.us/Arts/ArtShow/ArtShow11/winners.aspx

Riverview, Bethel, Tacoma shine in arts education

ArtsEd Washington (ArtsEd WA) in partnership with the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) named the top three Washington school winners of the Schools of Excellence in Arts Education Award—part of a national program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Awards. WSSDA participates in the evaluation of nominated schools and the Board presentations of the awards.

The winners are Carnation Elementary, grades Pre-K-5 (Riverview), Elk Plain School of Choice, grades Pre-K-6 (Bethel), and Tacoma School of the Arts, grades 10-12 (Tacoma). They will proceed to the national awards program.

The winning schools were chosen for outstanding arts programs which make all of the arts—dance, music, theater, and visual arts—an essential part of all students' education. ArtsEd Washington and AWSP recognized two other nominees as "highly commended" for their strong arts education programs. They are Adams Elementary School, a K-5 school (Seattle), and Ferrucci Junior High, a 7-9 grade school (Puyallup).

For more information, including the award process and nomination requirements, and to read the full submissions of Washington winners, visit www.artsedwashington.org > Headlines.

NEWS BRIEFS

The Washington Association of School Administrators, PEMCO Insurance, and School Employees Credit Union of Washington honored Dr. Steven T. Webb, superintendent of the Vancouver Public Schools, with the 2011 Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Award in the large-district category. Webb has worked as a school administrator for 20 years, five of those in Vancouver. Despite \$15 million in budget reductions over the past three years, Webb and the board have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to supporting continuous quality improvement. "Folks here understand that public education is a shared responsibility and that we all must do our part to prepare students for college, work, and life," Webb stated. "I continue to be honored and blessed to serve as superintendent of Vancouver Public Schools and to call this community my home."

Best Practices for School Districts is a list of resources managed by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Washington state's 2010 Legislature directed OSPI to create a vehicle for districts to share opportunities "for increasing efficiencies and economies of scale in school district noninstructional operations through shared service arrangements and school district cooperatives, as well as other practices."

Superintendent Dorn, going beyond the scope of the legislation, encourages the sharing of best practices in any area—including instructional areas. OSPI hopes that sharing these ideas will enable districts to target more funds to the classroom and to students who need the resources most. Visit the site which is beginning to assemble these best practices: www.k12.wa.us/bestpractices/default.aspx. A link is provided to submit a description of your program.



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Deborah Heart, President 509.773.6334
Mary Fertakis, President-elect 206.767.6053
Debra Long, Vice President. 509.993.1019
Dr. Jonelle Adams, Executive Director 360.252.3001
David Brine, Communications Director 360.252.3013
Kate Vikstrom, Communications Specialist 360.252.3015

WSSDA DIRECTORY

General Information 360.493.9231
Association Services 360.252.3002
Leadership Development Services 360.252.3009
Governmental Relations 360.252.3011
Communications 360.252.3011
Policy and Legal Services 360.252.3019
Toll Free (In-State) 800.562.8927
E-Mail mail@wssda.org

221 College Street N.E.
Olympia, WA 98516-5313

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Professional Educator Standards Board, TBD May 5-6
State Board of Education, Pasco May 11-12
WSSDA Executive Committee conference call May 19
Western Washington Native American Education Consortium, Sequim May 19
Paramount Duty Coalition, Olympia May 24
Healthy Schools Summit 2011, Seattle May 24-25
Memorial Day May 30
Board of Natural Resources, Olympia June 7
Paramount Duty Coalition June 15
WSSDA Executive Committee conference call June 16
WSSDA Legislative Committee (tentative) Olympia June 17-18
WSSDA Board of Directors, Olympia June 24-25
WSSDA Executive Committee conference call July 14
WSSDA Legislative Committee, Olympia July 22-23

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE WORKSHOPS
Olympia: July 18
Renton: July 19
Burlington: July 20
Wenatchee: July 25
Spokane: July 26
Yakima: July 27
Vancouver: July 28
2011 STARTING STRONG INSTITUTE
Spokane: August 11-12
WSSDA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Pasco: Sept. 23-24
WSSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Bellevue Hyatt Regency: Nov. 18-20