

**Week 3:
January 28, 2018**

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School Directors Weigh-in on McCleary "Fix" Bills



Olympia School Board President, Frank Wilson



North Mason School Director, John Campbell



Eatonville School Board President, Roger Andrascik

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” ~Margaret Mead

2018's Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill starts today!

Today (1/28) and tomorrow (Monday, 1/29) over 500 school board directors (including student board representatives), superintendents, and business officials from across the state will come to Olympia to advocate on the key issues this session impacting schools. The “Hot Topics” shared across the WSSDA, WASA, and WASBO priorities this year include EHB 2242 “fixes,” Capital Facilities, and Assessment Graduation Requirements.



Sunday's [conference program](#) is packed full of information and opportunities to help district teams better understand the “hot topic” issues, current Olympia context, and to coordinate regionally for the group meetings during the Day on the Hill. Presenters include State Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal, Governor Jay Inslee, and lead counsel in the *McCleary v. State* litigation, Tom Ahearne. More in-depth discussion on EHB 2242 implementation will be provided by WSSDA, WASA, and WASBO leaders; and WSSDA consultant, Brian Sims (former long-time capital budget staff to the Ways & Means Committee) will share insights and answer questions on the state of the capital budget. Many of the presenters will have materials that will be shared at the conference and online. As with last year, WSSDA will be recording several of the presentations and posting them to share with those who could not make it to Olympia this year. Sunday closes with the annual reception where conference attendees are welcome to invite their local legislators to join us for

During Monday's Day on the Hill, conference participants will descend on Capitol Hill to attend meetings with the vast majority of the Legislature. WSSDA's Legislative Committee, in cooperation with several regional ESDs, has made appointments for regional district teams to share “closer to home” information with legislators regarding the “hot topics” and the most urgent issues to attend to this session.

We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming days in Olympia. Follow the action on Twitter at [#WALegConf18!](#)



MCCLEARY “FIX” PROGRESS & NEXT STEPS

On Monday the Senate Early Learning & K12 Education Committee hosted a public hearing on four bills related to making improvements to EHB 2242:

- ⇒ [SB 6362 \(HB 2724\)](#) – OSPI request legislation (check out [OSPI's 2242 web page](#) for further district-specific analysis)
- ⇒ [SB 6397 \(HB 2717\)](#) – Sponsored by Sen. Hunt and Rep. Dolan ([click here for a summary](#))
- ⇒ [SB 6483](#) – Sponsored by Sen. Conway
- ⇒ [SB 6394 \(HB 2763\)](#) – Sponsored by Sen. Walsh and Rep. Jenkin (focus is on LAP “high poverty” funding formula)

Monday's [full hearing](#) is worth the watch to hear, however if you don't have much time, [skip to the staff briefing](#) on all four bills using a [helpful side-by-side comparison document](#). [Testimony from Superintendent Reykdal](#) and OSPI Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Dawn-Fischer, provides some insight from OSPI as to the details of their bill (SB 6362). 13 school districts testified at the hearing including school directors from three districts: [Director Frank Wilson](#) from Olympia, [Director Roger Andrascik](#) from Eatonville, and [Director John Campbell](#) from North Mason.

On Thursday, the committee held an Executive Session to discuss proposed amendments that would bring provisions from each of the bills into one bill. [Click here](#) to hear the full committee discussion on the proposed amendments. There is clear commitment in the committee to continuing hearing from districts and working together in “four corners” (Senate and House Republicans; and Senate and House Democrats) negotiations. [Here is a link to the amendment](#) that was adopted and to the new SSB 6362. It is important to note that the provision in the amendment regarding regionalization was withdrawn verbally by Senator Rolfes as it was written incorrectly. She committed to addressing regionalization as negotiations on the bill continue.

What's Next? Next week there are **two important public hearings** to continue the conversation on these bills and the necessary “fixes” to improve EHB 2242:

- **Wednesday the 31st at 3:30** in the [House Appropriations Committee](#) – the public hearing will basically be a replica of the Senate hearing from this week on the House versions of the bills: HB 2721, HB 2717, and HB 2763 (see links above).
- **Thursday February 1st at 3:30** in the [Senate Ways & Means Committee](#) – the hearing will be on [SSB 6362](#) as it passed out of the Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee.

WEEKLY RECAP & SESSION INSIGHTS

For a look back on the week's committee meetings, check out [WSSDA's week 3 schedule](#). Below are a few highlights in addition to the McCleary "fix" hearing on Monday (see pg. 1):

- ⇒ **24 credit requirements discussed:** On Monday the House Education Committee hosted an informational work session regarding implementation of the 24 credit graduation requirement. School directors, administrators, and high school principals from [Battle Ground](#), [Quincy](#), [Federal Way](#), and [Eatonville](#) shared their stories with the committee and provided insightful food for thought as the legislature deliberates on the entirety of the current high school graduation requirements (click on the district hyperlinks above to hear the district presentations and committee's questions/discussion).
- ⇒ **55% approval in school district bond elections discussed:** Wednesday the [Senate State Government, Tribal Relations, & Elections Committee](#) hosted a public hearing on [SB 6246](#) and [SJR 8213](#) that would provide for approval of school district bond measures to be authorized by 55% of voters. [Testimony](#) was in strong support of this as a compromise over a true simple majority (50 +1) approach. WSSDA shared a [high level summary](#) of the statewide impacts that a 55% approval would have had in bond elections since 2015.
- ⇒ **WA Voting Rights Act "Take 2" in the House:** Friday morning the House State Government, Elections & Information Technology Committee hosted a public hearing on [ESSB 6002](#) that passed out of the Senate last week. The [staff briefing](#) provides an overview of the changes in this bill as compared to the House version of the bill ([HB 1800](#)) and [testimony](#) provides insights into continuing issues and opportunities with the bill. Next steps for how quickly this will move through the House as negotiations continue are still to be seen. This is a high priority for the Democratic majority this session and WSSDA is working hard to provide constructive input on bill language and refinements to meet the interests of the association. [Last week's update](#) provided a deeper dive on the topic.

Check out WSSDA's Legislative Positions, Priorities, & Resources!

Session Insights on [TVW](#):

- On Wednesday's edition of TVW's [The Impact](#), Representatives Tharinger (House Capital Budget Committee Chair) and DeBolt (House Capital Budget Committee Ranking Minority) [reflected](#) on the impacts of the capital budget being used as a bargaining chip and recapped projects that were funded in the budget.
- On Thursday's edition of [Inside Olympia](#), Austin Jenkins hosted a Reporter's Panel where Jerry Cornfield of The Herald of Everett, and Jim Camden of The Spokesman-Review of Spokane [shared their reflections](#) on progress in the 2018 legislative session as we enter week 4. Highlights include their reflection on impacts of the capital budget delay and more.

THE WEEK AHEAD

[Click here](#) to check out the daily committee schedule with bills and committees WSSDA is tracking. Full details on the Committee Meeting agendas, visit the [House Committee](#) or [Senate Committee](#) Web sites and click on the committee you are interested in. With the first major policy cutoff this coming Friday, 2/2, most committees will be working quickly to move bills out of their committees and on to the next step in the process. Bills that don't progress beyond their initial policy committee may be considered "dead" or "necessary to implement the budget".

Here are links to the agendas for key education committees:

- [House Education](#) (mostly executive sessions are planned all week)
- [Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education](#) (public hearings & executive sessions are planned all week)
- [House Higher Education](#) (see 1/30 & 1/31 agendas)
- [Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development](#) (see 2/1 agenda)

And...a few specific hearings where **school district voices** are critical:

Monday, 1/29:

- ⇒ **New school construction bill in the neighborhood!** At 3:30 in the [Senate Ways & Means Committee](#) will host a public hearing on [SB 6531](#) (prime sponsored by Senator Pederson and co-sponsored by 35 others). The bill would phase in over six years improvements in the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) funding formula. The cost per square foot would increase by 50% over inflation and it would increase the square foot allocation by about 40%. Though the fiscal note is not complete, it will no doubt be quite steep (probably over a \$1 billion per biennium once fully implemented).
- ⇒ **Trust land management to be discussed.** At 1:30 the [Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee](#) will hear [SB 6539](#) that contemplates the future management of the state's trust lands. Public schools are one of the foremost beneficiaries of the trust and members of [WSSDA's Trust Land Task Force](#) will be on hand to testify on the bill.

Continued....

Cont'd: Week Ahead

Tuesday, 1/30:

- ⇒ **Round 1 of McCleary “fix” bills in the House:** At 3:30 the [House Appropriations Committee](#) will hear the House versions of the bills that the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee heard on 1/22: HB 2721, HB 2717, and HB 2763.
- ⇒ **DACA to be discussed:** [House Joint Memorial 4016](#) supporting the deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) will receive a public hearing at 10:00 am in the [House Judiciary Committee](#). [Click here](#) for WSSDA’s statement on this topic.

Thursday, 2/1:

- ⇒ **Round 2 of McCleary “fix” bill in the Senate:** At 3:30 the Senate Ways & Means Committee will host a public hearing on SSB 6362 as it was passed out of the Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee this past Thursday, 1/25. See the *McCleary “Fix” Progress & Next Steps* section of this report for more.

Deeper Dive: Transitioning to the New School Employee Benefit Board (SEBB)

One surprise and welcomed provision of EHB 2242 was the creation of the new [School Employee Benefits Board](#) (SEBB). The SEBB is tasked with moving health insurance for school employees (certificated, classified, ESD employees and charter school employees) to a single, state-designed purchasing plan to be ready for launch on January 1, 2020. Since nothing of this sort exists for school employees, it is critical that the SEBB maintain focus on smooth transitions and making the necessary adjustments in statute to assure smooth and strong transition over the next two years.

State-provided and bargained healthcare has been a priority legislative position for WSSDA for over 10 years. We are working diligently to engage in the important policy discussions underway with the SEBB and in the legislature. Currently there now four SEBB-related bills in the House and Senate. [Click here for a summary](#) of all four bills, and [here for a concise overview](#) of the SEBB’s work. Public hearings were held on all of them and work is now underway on a single bill. We may see the result of that next week. One of the bills, [HB 2655](#) / [SB 6286](#) was proposed by WSSDA to add a school director and administrator to the SEBB in order to assure a strong transition to the SEBB. To hear discussion in the House Appropriations Committee on this bill, [click here](#).

STAY CONNECTED

WSSDA and other education partners in the state are committed to developing and sharing resources to help our members learn about these issues and to communicate about them effectively.

WSSDA Resources:

- [WSSDA Legislative Updates & Bill Watch](#)
- [School Board Legislative Representatives](#)—Resources for Leg. Reps to help navigate the legislative process, including weekly webinars during the legislative session.
- WSSDA’s [2017 Legislative Committee](#) is eager to support school board Legislative Representatives in their regions.

Education Association Partner Legislative Priorities

- [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\)](#)
- [State Board of Education \(SBE\)](#)
- [Washington Association of School Administrators \(WASA\)](#)
- [Association of Washington School Principals \(AWSPP\)](#)
- [Association of Educational Service Districts \(AESD\)](#)
- [Washington State Parent Teacher Association \(WSPTA\)](#)

WA State Legislature

- ⇒ [2018 Legislative Contact Roster](#) (updated 1/4/18)
- ⇒ [Legislative Information Center](#)
- ⇒ [Weekly Committee Schedules](#)
- ⇒ [Bill Information and Tracking](#) - From these pages you can follow the bills you are most interested in and also provide [comments on bills](#).

TVW - TVW’s weekly programming is a great way to stay connected with broad legislative issues. In addition to *Inside Olympia* and *The Impact*, TVW offers a daily and weekly [Legislative Review](#), and live and archived recordings of committee hearings and work sessions.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LEGISLATIVE:

- January 8**—First day of 60 Day Session
- February 2**—Policy committee cutoff
- February 6**—Fiscal committee cutoff
- February 14**—House of Origin cutoff (5 pm)
- February 23**—Policy committee cutoff (opposite house)
- February 26**—Fiscal committee cutoff (opposite house)
- March 2**—Last day to consider opposite house bills (except budgets and matters necessary to implement the budget, and differences between the houses)
- March 8**—Last day of regular session

WSSDA-Related:

- Every Friday through March 9**—Weekly Legislative Update webinars for school board Leg. Reps.
- January 28 & 29**—WSSDA/WASA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill
- February–March**—WSSDA position streamlining process (Legislative and Resolutions Committees)
- March 15–April 30**—WSSDA legislative position solicitation process (new and continuing positions)
- March–May**—WSSDA Spring Regional Meetings
- September 21 & 22**—WSSDA Legislative Assembly (Spokane)

