



TWIO

This Week In Olympia

Week 1 | January 15, 2010

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This Week in Review

About the TWIO

This Week in Olympia is emailed to active WASA and AEA members every Friday and is posted on WASA's website at www.wasa-oly.org. TWIO provides schedules for committee hearings, a Bill Watch (which tracks bills as they move through the legislature) and information on legislative issues important to school administrators.

The 2010 legislative session opened on a somber note. The economy continues to lag, the hoped-for turnaround hasn't happened; the state budget has a \$2.6 billion shortfall for the remaining half of the 2009–100 biennium. Governor Christine Gregoire's Book 1 supplemental budget, which cut everything, is hated by everyone—including the governor herself. The Book 2 budget released this week adds new revenue, but isn't much better and certainly doesn't resolve the budget crisis for school districts (www.wasa-oly.org/TWIOSpecialBook2)

School districts need to "Tell Your Story" (www.wasa-oly.org/TellYourStory) to each of your legislators. The budget discussions are happening now—the sooner they hear from you the better.

The "short" sixty day session is scheduled to end on March 11. Governor Gregoire told the House Ways and Means Committee that our state is expected to receive about \$1 billion in federal money but that we can't factor that "bailout" into the current budget calculation until we know for sure which should be after President Obama's State of the Union address scheduled for mid-January or early February (the date has not been set).

The budget committees heard testimony on the Governor's Book 2 supplemental budget proposal.

(www.wasa-oly.org/TWIOSpecialBook2) WASA testified that we've asked every superintendent to "Tell Your Story" (www.wasa-oly.org/TellYourStory)

Please send your one-page "Tell Your Story" and the list of legislators you shared it with to Barbara Mertens, bmertens@wasa-oly.org.

The history of budget cuts to school districts is so deep and pervasive that—as OSPI has clearly demonstrated—insolvency is a very real possibility for many districts. We encourage you to go to www.TVW.org and watch Jennifer Priddy's presentation on Levies and Levy Equalization and the Superintendents' Panel [Art Jarvis, (Tacoma School District), Nick Brossoit (Edmonds School District), Marty Kay (Aberdeen School District) and Chip Kimball (Lake Washington School District)] on Budget Cuts to the Quality Education Council meeting on January 6. WASA believes that we must work with our elected officials to focus on the need to stabilize school district budgets and set the course for sustaining a fair and equitable funding system with a stable source of state revenue.

This Week in Review cont'd.

The Senate Early Learning and K–12 Education Committee held a work session on schools in improvement and voluntary accountability. Chair Senator McAuliffe is concerned that new federal regulations and the new accountability system proposed by the State Board of Education will leave behind districts and schools that have been involved in the current work and the changes they've made to improve student learning will be lost when the resources go away.

The House Education Committee held a work session on on-line learning and took public testimony on three bills relating to drop-out retention and retrieval. While there is a lot of support for proposed district, ESD, community and technical college, and community based program collaborative programs, the issues relating to unfunded mandates and sustainable funding were raised. The committee was scheduled to hear a bill on school consolidation next Friday but Chair Rep. Quall decided not to give the bill (HB 2616) a hearing because of concerns that were brought to his attention

(www.wasa-oly.org/HuntHB2616) and said he will consider studying the issue over the interim instead.

The Capital Budget committee heard Rep. Hans Dunshee's JOBS bill HB 2561 on Wednesday and passed it out of committee on Thursday. While there are still bugs to be worked out and the bill has a long way to go, WASA is supporting this effort to "create jobs throughout Washington by issuing bonds for energy efficiency projects in public schools, colleges, universities and other public buildings".

WASA's Legislation and Finance Committee will meet by conference call weekly. If you have issues for the committee, contact your region representative.

www.wasa-oly.org/LegFinance

Quality Education Council

Last year's legislature created the Quality Education Council to provide on-going oversight to ESHB 2261—the redefinition and funding of basic education. The Council approved it's recommendations to the 2010 Legislature on January 6. These include (but are not limited to):

- No cuts to K–12 education
- Move up work timeline for compensation and levy equalization.
- Beginning in 2011—implement the prototypical school funding model, increase funding for Transportation and NERC (now referred to as MOEC), K–3, all day Kindergarten, early learning, new teacher mentoring.

A number of workgroups met during the interim. The purpose of the groups is for them to provide technical assistance to the Council in the following areas:

- prototype funding formula development
- data collection and governance
- achievement gap
- State Board of Education Accountability and Core 24

Agendas and materials for the workgroups as well as the Council's 2010 recommendations can be found at www.k12.wa.us/QEC/

Public Disclosure Commission

Because of the critical nature of the budget issues being discussed this session, we want to remind you that the PDC sent a memo to school superintendents prior to the session outlining the guidelines for restrictions on lobbying activities for school district personnel. We urge you to read the memo from Philip Stutzman, PDC Director of Compliance. www.wasa-oly.org/PDCLobbying. Also note that contact information for two PDC staff members is included if you have questions.

Session Hearing Schedules-General

Selected Hearing Schedules by Committee

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Ed.

Monday	1:30–3:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00–10:00 a.m.
Thursday	10:00–12:00 Noon

Senate Ways & Means

Monday	3:30–5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	3:30–5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	1:30–3:30 p.m.
Thursday	1:30–3:30 p.m.

House Ways & Means

Monday	3:30–5:30 p.m.
Tuesday	3:30–5:30 p.m.
Wednesday	3:30–5:30 p.m.
Thursday	3:30–5:30 p.m.

Education Appropriations

Tuesday	8:00–10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	6:00–8:00 p.m.
Thursday	1:30–3:30 p.m.

House Education

Tuesday	10:00–12:00 Noon
Wednesday	1:30–3:30 p.m.
Friday	8:00–10:00 a.m.

Selected Hearing Schedules by Day-General

Monday

1:30–3:30 p.m.	Senate Early Learning & K–12 Ed.
3:30–5:30 p.m.	Senate Ways & Means
3:30–5:30 p.m.	House Ways & Means

Tuesday

8:00–10:00 a.m.	Education Appropriations
10:00–12:00 Noon	House Education
3:30–5:30 p.m.	Senate Ways & Means
3:30–5:30 p.m.	House Ways & Means

Wednesday

8:00–10:00 a.m.	Senate Early Learning & K–12 Ed.
1:30–3:30 p.m.	House Education
1:30–3:30 p.m.	Senate Ways & Means
3:30–5:30 p.m.	House Ways & Means
6:00–8:00 p.m.	Education Appropriations

Selected Hearing Schedules by Day-General cont'd.**Thursday**

10:00–12:00 Noon Senate Early Learning & K–12 Ed.
 1:30–3:30 p.m. Senate Ways & Means
 1:30–3:30 p.m. Education Appropriations
 3:30–5:30 p.m. House Ways & Means

Friday

8:00–10:00 a.m. House Education

Session Cutoff Calendar

January 11	First day of session
February 5	Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 9	Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
February 16	Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.)
February 26	Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
March 1	Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
March 5	Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session)*
March 11	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

*After the 54th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

The Governor has 5 days, excluding Sundays, to take action on any bill passed by the Legislature, provided adjournment does not occur within those 5 days.

Hearing Schedule Week 2-January 18–22**Monday, January 18****SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K–12 ED.**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JAC Room 1

Work Session:

- Leadership Academy
 - Race To The Top:
 - Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Judy Hartmann, Executive Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor.
 - Mary Jean Ryan, State Board of Education
- Possible executive session on bills heard in committees.

SENATE WAYS & MEANS

3:30–5:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

Public Hearing:

Governor Gregoire's 2010 Supplemental Proposed Budget

Tuesday, January 19**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JLOB Room A

Public Hearing:

- HB 1757 Establishing a small school district contingency fund
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=1757>
- HB 1969 Promoting predictable funding for school districts that provide residential education.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=1969>
- HB 2449 Concerning truancy payments to school districts
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2449>
- HB 2670 Restoring the school district levy base
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2670>
- HJM 4020 Petitioning Congress to fully fund forty percent of the federal individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=4020>

HOUSE EDUCATION

10:00–12:00 Noon JLOB Room A

Public Hearing:

- HB 2586 Encouraging kindergarten outreach
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2586>
- HB 2580 Concerning secondary career and technical education courses
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2580>
- HB 2392 Prohibiting the use of public resources by school district officers or employees to support or oppose a teachers' strike.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2392>

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

1:30–3:30 p.m. JAC Room 2

Public Hearing:

- SB 6367 Allowing agencies to direct requesters to their website for public records.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=6367>
- SB 6368 Concerning conferences prior to filing actions alleging a public records act.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=6368>

Tuesday, January 19 cont'd**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS cont'd.**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JAC Room 2

4. SB 6408 Changing remedies for actions under the public records act.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=6408>

5. SB 6428 Exempting from disclosure personal information used to identify a person filing a complaint with an agency.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=6428>**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

3:30–5:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

Public Hearing:

To be announced.

HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET

3:30–5:30 p.m. JLOB Room C

Public Hearing:

1. E2SHB 1618 Concerning community and surplus schools

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=1618>**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

3:30–5:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

Public Hearing:

1. HB 1541 Granting half-time service credit for half-time educational employment prior to January 1, 1987, in plans 2 & 3 of the school employee's retirement.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1541&year=2010>**Wednesday, January 20****SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K–12 ED.**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JAC Room 1

Public Hearing:

SGA 9203 Bette Hyde, Member, Washington State Department of Early Learning.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=9203>*Work Session:*

The New Teacher Project: Boosting the Supply and Effectiveness of Washington's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Teacher's Report.

1. SB 6491 Transferring the state school for the blind and the state center for childhood deafness and hearing loss to the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=6491>

2. SB 6466 Authorizing advertising on school buses.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=6466>**HOUSE EDUCATION**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

Work Session:

1. Boost the Supply and Effectiveness of Washington's STEM Teachers-Partnership for Learning and The New Teacher Project.
2. Update on K–12 STEM Activities in Washington—Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Public Hearing:

1. HB 2621 Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering and mathematics instruction in K–12 schools.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2621&year=2010>

2. HB 2654 Providing for elementary math specialists.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2654>**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

Public Hearing:

To be announced.

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

3:30–5:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

Possible Executive Session:

1. HB 1541 Granting half-time service credit for half-time educational employment prior to January 1, 1987, in plans 2 & 3 of the school employee's retirement.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1541&year=2010>**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

6:00–8:00 p.m. JLOB Room A

Work Session:

Levy Equalization

Thursday, January 21**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JAC Room 4

Work Session:

Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee overview on tax preferences.

SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12

10:00–12:00 Noon JAC Room 1

Work Session:

Update on the Building Bridges efforts for dropout prevention, intervention and re-engagement.

Public Hearing:

1. SB 6403 Regarding accountability & support for vulnerable students and dropouts.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6403&year=2010>

2. SB 6518 Regarding school levies

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6518&year=2009>

3. SB 6502 Changing school levy provisions

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=6502&year=2009>**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

Possible Executive Session:

1. HB 1757 Establishing a small school district contingency fund

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=1757>

2. HB 1969 Promoting predictable funding for school districts that provide residential education.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=1969>

3. HB 2449 Concerning truancy payments to school districts

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2449>

4. HB 2670 Restoring the school district levy base

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2670>

5. HJM 4020 Petitioning Congress to fully fund forty percent of the federal individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=4020>

Thursday, January 21 cont'd.**HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET**

3:30–5:30 p.m. JLOB Room C

Executive Session:

Bills previously heard in committees.

Work Session:

1. Joint Legislative Task Force on School Construction Funding Recommendations.
2. School District Capital Construction Reimbursement Claim Process Report.
3. Analysis of the School Construction Bonds, Qualified Zone Academy Bonds, and Build America Bonds.

Friday, January 22**HOUSE EDUCATION**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JLOB Room A

Work Session:

Gangs in Schools.

Public Hearing:

1. HB 2834 Regarding gang and hate group activity at schools and school activities.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2834>
2. HB 2835 Increasing school safety.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2835>
3. HB 2801 Regarding antiharassment strategies in public schools.
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2010&bill=2801>

Retirement and Health Benefits

The past legislative interim recommendation action of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) was fairly dismal. Only two issues that could possibly impact some of our members were recommended. These were:

Disability Benefit, proposed legislation that would continue the work of the Washington State Institute of Public Policy to proceed in study. It also requires the Health Care Authority to institute an improved communications program around the PEBB optional long-term disability insurance plan. The other recommendation is to give recommendation to **HB 1545/SB 5302** regarding past part-time service credit. Still pending at a January 18 meeting of the SCPP is the issue of the **\$150,000 Death Benefit**.

Three other pieces of proposed legislation that could have impacted our members were either rejected or not moved by the SCPP. A possible bill that would change the **Plans 2/3** default when a new Plan 2/3 member enters the system from Plan 3 to Plan 2 was turned down by the committee.

A **School Administrator Contract Year** proposed bill was given a work study report and opportunity for our testimony by the SCPP in December, however was not voted upon. WASA/AWSP has worked on this legislation for the past couple years and has a Code Reviser draft bill available. This bill would allow Plan 2/3 administrators to be eligible to retire under the age 62 alternate early retirement legislation without completing the July and August months of their 30th service credit year.

The third piece of proposed legislation improves the option for the **Survivors Access to the Plan 1 TRS Annuity**. It was submitted to the SCPP Executive Committee by WASA/AWSP and received no action. A number of other issues have been given attention by the SCPP in the past; howev-

er all the following issues have significant fiscal impact and were deemed inappropriate in these economic conditions. These include: Plan 3 Vesting, Plan 2 Access to the PEBB, Plan 2/3 Postretirement Employment and Survivor Benefits.

By the middle of this first week, two pension bills that received no interim SCPP attention have been introduced. They are: **HB 2607**, a bill that would allow math, science and special education teachers to work more than the usual three year limit within Plan 1 retire/rehire and **HB 2679**, a bill that prohibits any benefit increased in the retirement system from being enacted until the work of a pension risk assessment group is completed.

Additional information and more details can be found in this week's **Retirement/Health Benefit Bill** watch at www.wasa-oly.org/Retirement. This also includes information regarding proposed contribution rates.

AEA

AEA spent much of the interim working with the Funding Formula Technical Working Group as they developed funding formulas for the new prototypical school funding model. There were several WASBO members as part of the group, and WAMOA worked closely with the group, especially in helping to clarify the state's role in maintenance funding, particularly in staff funding formulas and MSOC (formerly NERC).

WSNA was pleased that the Governor included the elimination of the K–12 breakfast co-pay and K–3 lunch co-pay for reduced price students in the December statutory budget.

The Meals for Kids Committee has been meeting with members of House Education Appropriations and House and Senate Ways and Means Committees, urging them to maintain this nutrition funding in their eventual House and Senate 2010 supplemental operating budgets.

On January 13, AEA testified in support of HB 2561, Rep. Dunshee's jobs bill. We felt that the energy savings would help both the state's general fund as well as school districts' general fund, and would help create jobs in a challenging time. We were also pleased that there is a means for school districts to use an alternative means for school energy conservation rather than performance contracting. Currently, AEA is working with members of the House Capital Budget Committee to make the criteria for alternative projects more defined and measurable.

Finally, we were pleased that the Governor, in her Book 2 budget, restored levy equalization funding in calendar year 2011. AEA feels that there must be as much equity as possible among property-rich and property-poor school districts.

WASA/WSSDA 2010 Legislative Conference

The WASA/WSSDA 2010 Legislative Conference will be held February 7-8 at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. Registration information: www.wasa-oly.org/2010LegConference. Invite your legislators to join you at the reception on Sunday from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fir meeting room.

Committee Members/Keeping up with the Legislative Session

Washington State Government <http://www.access.wa.gov>

State Legislature <http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature>

Senate <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate>

House of Representatives <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House>

Office of the Governor <http://www.governor.wa.gov/>

OSPI <http://www.k12.wa.us>

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/>

House Education <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/ED/>

Senate Ways and Means <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

House Ways and Means <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/WAYS/>

House Education Appropriations <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/APPE/>

House Capital Budget <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/CB/>

TVW <http://www.tvw.org>

WASA's 2010 Legislative Session Guide, which includes legislator's phone numbers and email addresses, will be emailed next week and available online at www.wasa-oly.org/2010sessionguide

Bill Watch

This Week in TWIO we start to track bills that have been introduced. A bill's "status" changes as it is heard in committee and then either dies or moves to the floor of the House or Senate. It then crosses over to the other side and goes through the same process. Bills, including sponsors, amendments, actions and history can be found by clicking on the bill number.

February 9 is the last day to hear bills in the house of origin policy committees.

HOUSE	TITLE	STATUS	SPONSOR
SHB 1418	Dropout reengagement	H Education	Kagi
HB 1541	Half-time edu employment	H Ways & Means	Seaquist
E2SHB 1618	Community & surplus schools	H Cap Budget	White
HB 1757	Small school district fund	H Education Apps	Haigh
SHB 1969	Residential education	H Education Apps	Haigh
HB 2392	Teachers' strikes	H Education	Simpson
HB 2449	Truancy payments/schools	H Education Apps	Appleton
HB 2561	Energy cost savings & jobs	H Exec Action	Dunshee
HB 2580	Secondary career & tech edu	H Education	Lias
HB 2586	Kindergarten outreach	H Education	Sullivan
HB 2609	Vulnerable students	H Education	Junt
HB 2621	K–12 schools resource progs	H Education	Orwall
HB 2631	Dropout prevention program	H Education	Probst
HB 2654	Elementary math specialists	H Education	Wallace
HB 2670	School district levy base	H Education Apps	Haigh
HB 2801	Antiharassment strategies	H Education	Lias
HB 2834	Gangs & hate groups/schools	H Education	Probst
HB 2835	School safety zones	H Education	Probst
SB 6222	Kids at hope	S EL/K–12	Franklin
SB 6367	Agency websites/pub records	S GovtOp&Elect	Hatfield
SB 6368	Pub record request violation	S GovtOp&Elect	Hatfield
SB 6403	Vulnerable students	S EL/K–12	Kauffman
SB 6428	Complaint filed w/ an agency	S GovtOp&Elect	Kline
SB 6466	Advertising on school buses	S EL/K–12	Shin
SB 6491	Sch. for blind/deafness ctr.	S EL/K–12	
SB 6502	School district levy base	S EL/K–12	Tom
SB 6518	School levies	S EL/K–12	Oemig
SGA 9203	Bette Hyde	S EL/K–12	



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