From the President

Steve Webb
2017–18 WASA President

#NeverAgain
Parkland, FL. Oxon Hill, MD. Los Angeles, CA. Philadelphia, PA. Benton, KY. Italy, TX. Six communities impacted by school shootings with injuries or deaths. The numbers are sickening. Sixty-three casualties. Twenty people dead—16 students and four adults—just 45 days into 2018 (Education Week, 2018).

This past fall, one student was killed and three were injured in a school shooting at Freeman High School (Rockford, WA). And now, the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (Parkland, FL) has reignited polarizing debates about gun rights and school safety.

These debates often include difficult questions about restricting access to weapons, arming teachers or administrators, increasing police presence in schools, improving access to mental health services and interventions, and investing in additional security measures such as metal detectors or panic button door lock systems and other possible remedies.

We should be careful about applying simple solutions to complex problems. From a policy perspective, as a nation, we tend to address symptoms rather than root causes. As the debates rage and we tinker around the edges of substantive change, more students, staff, families, and communities are impacted in devastating ways. Lives are lost, memories are marred, and families are destroyed. People feel outrage, sorrow, and disbelief.

Enough is enough. Our nation’s children deserve better.

As educational leaders charged with the well-being and care of 1.1 million Washington State children, I believe it is time for us to lead on this issue. Regardless of our approach to a solution, we all can agree that the violence perpetuated on too many of our children and adults who serve them is horrific. We all know that “run, hide, fight” in response to an active shooter event still places students and staff at considerable risk. As a father with two children in Vancouver Public Schools, I struggle to get my head and heart around the callousness of it all.

To reduce school shooting violence demands a more comprehensive, whole-system, multi-faceted public policy approach that attends to the following: 1) cultivating supportive learning communities that meet the social-emotional needs of each learner and keep them free from bullying and harassment (e.g., additional school-based counseling services and staffing); 2) increasing access to mental health services and interventions for students and parents with need, especially trauma-impacted children and families; 3) increasing investments in school safety personnel and school-based community policing that focuses on relationships, partnerships, and preventative measures; 4) enacting sensible, more restrictive background checks and waiting periods that prevent mentally ill people, minors, and individuals with violent criminal records from purchasing guns, particularly military assault-style or bump stock-modified weapons; 5) increasing school modernization investments and capital budgets that create safe, secure, and inviting facilities that leverage new and emerging technology to protect our children, staff members, and patrons.

I’m not Pollyanna. I know that any person with a gun intent on wreaking havoc in a school will find a way to do it. However, these reasonable policy steps and investments would reduce the frequency and magnitude of active shooter events in this country.

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I want to be clear: I am writing this message as a father, an educator, and a superintendent. We can and must take a stand. This is not an either/or debate; it is a both/and conversation. To polarize these events on the fringe creates paralysis. As we’ve learned in the 20 years since Columbine, paralysis results in more deaths.

We need reasoned moderation now more than ever. It is past time to find common ground that protects the common good and individual liberties. That’s what our Founding Fathers intended for us, and that’s what our nation’s children deserve.

Washington State Leadership Academy: Refreshed and Ready to Serve

The Washington State Leadership Academy (WSLA) has a refreshed curriculum, strands, and rubrics, and is recruiting interested teams for the 2018–19 cohort!

At WSLA the mission is to create sustainable aligned systems that ensure equity and high levels of learning. In their commitment to providing all leadership teams with the support to develop an aligned system focused on high quality instruction, WSLA has refreshed and updated their curriculum. This refresh also provides a new possibility for leadership teams to participate again if they have already completed the two-year cohort.

Take advantage of this one of a kind leadership opportunity to work with your leadership team.

WSLA workshops are offered regionally through the support of the ESDs. Currently, WSLA is working with the ESDs to determine interest within each region. To learn more about this exciting and powerful leadership program and to view an overview video, please visit our website at www.waleadershipacademy.org. To learn more about joining WSLA for next year, please contact Director Sharon Bower at 360.520.6503 or sbower@waleadershipacademy.org.

Let the power of WSLA grow your district!

Dr. Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education

Applications are now being accepted for the Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education. The scholarship will be awarded to a school administrator who is presently in or accepted into a doctoral program in education administration that has been approved by the Washington State Professional Educators Standards Board. The deadline to apply is April 26, 2018. For more information and the application, please see the WASA website at http://bit.ly/2m8QqOQ.

Dr. Howard M. Coble Scholarship for Under-Represented Educational Leaders

In honor of Dr. Howard M. Coble, a scholarship has been established by the Washington School Administrators Foundation in partnership with WASA to assist talented, under-represented educators to pursue graduate studies that prepare for central office leadership positions. The $5,000 scholarship will be awarded to an educator who is presently enrolled in or will begin graduate studies in education leadership by the fall of 2018. Applications are due on April 2, 2018. Please visit http://bit.ly/2oFm35A for the application.

Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards Nomination Deadline—March 21

Three recipients are selected each year and share a $10,000 monetary award. One highly effective superintendent, central office administrator, or building administrator will be selected from a small, medium, and large school district. Nominees must be an active WASA or AWSP members for a minimum of three years. For more information and the application, please visit the WASA website at http://bit.ly/2lMsPD9. For questions, contact Shari Parsons at sparsons@wasa-oly.org or 360.943.5717.
Finalists Announced in Selection Process for New WASA Executive Director

The Executive Committee of the WASA Board met and announced their selection of three finalists to move forward in the selection process for the new WASA Executive Director. Current WASA Executive Director, Dr. Bill Keim, will be retiring effective June 30.

The applicants selected as finalists are:

Joel Aune
Joel has served as Superintendent of Snoqualmie Valley School District since 2005. Prior to that he served in various leadership roles including Colfax School District Superintendent and Principal of Berney Elementary School in Walla Walla School District. Joel has been a member of the WASA Board since 2004 and has served in a variety of other WASA leadership roles. He was elected as WASA President for the 2011–12 school year.

Dr. Frank Hewins
Frank has served as Superintendent of Franklin Pierce School District since 2007 and was their Assistant Superintendent for PK–12 education beginning in 1997. Previously, he served in a variety of building leadership roles in both Franklin Pierce and Yelm School Districts. Frank was elected as WASA President for the 2015–16 school year and is the current Washington State Superintendent of the Year. In addition to his WASA leadership roles, Frank has served on the AASA Governing Board since 2011.

Jim Kowalkowski
Jim has served as Superintendent of Davenport School District since 2007. Prior to that he served as Superintendent of Pomeroy School District and principal of Pomeroy Jr. and Sr. High School. Jim was also a building administrator in Ferndale School District. In addition to his school district leadership roles, Jim has also served as the Executive Director of the Rural Education Center since 2003, and he has been active with the National Rural Education Association.

Interviews for the three finalists are scheduled for March 2, with Board action to appoint the selected candidate on March 16, 2018.

WASA Leaders Workshop
April 17, 2018
Four Points by Sheraton at Seattle Airport South

WASA leadership will come together in April for the WASA Leaders Workshop. Incoming President, Randy Russell, will facilitate the meeting. WASA members in the following leadership roles should attend:

WASA Board of Directors 2017–18
Region Presidents 2017–18
Region Presidents-elect 2017–18
Region Presidents-elect 2018–19
Standing Committee Chairs 2017–18
Standing Committee Chairs 2018–19

Additional details will be sent later in March. The agenda format will look a bit different from years past. Those attending can expect something new. Questions may be directed to Shari Parsons at sparsons@wasa-oly.org or 360.943.5717.

2018 WASA Honorary Awards Nominations are Now Being Accepted

The 2018 WASA Honorary Awards nomination process is underway. Nomination forms were sent to each active WASA member and they can also be found on the WASA website at http://bit.ly/2m957BB. State awards are presented at the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference in June and include: Golden Gavel, Barbara Mertens Legacy, Service to WASA, and WASA Leadership. The region awards, which are presented at award ceremonies regionally, are the Student Achievement Leadership, Award of Merit, Community Leadership, Twenty-Year, and Retiree. This is a great opportunity to acknowledge those colleagues or community members who are making an extraordinary contribution to K–12 education.

See Executive Director Bill Keim’s most recent post entitled “Keeping Our School Health and Safety Commitments.” The post can be found at http://billsblog-wasa.weebly.com. Bill updates his blog regularly, so check back often for association news, information on education issues, and education success stories.
Upcoming Conferences

2018 WASA SPRING CONFERENCE
For Small Schools Leaders
March 12–13 | Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee
Register now at www.wasa-oly.org/Spring18.

2018 WASA WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
May 5 | Campbell's Resort, Chelan
Register at www.wasa-oly.org/WIL18.

2018 WASA SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE
May 6–8 | Campbell's Resort, Chelan
Register at www.wasa-oly.org/Supt18.

2018 WASA/AWSP/WSSDA EQUITY CONFERENCE
May 23 | DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac
Register at www.wasa-oly.org/Equity18.

2018 WASA/AWSP SUMMER CONFERENCE
June 24–26 | Spokane Convention Center, Spokane
Register and book your housing at www.awsp.org/sc18.

2018 WASA INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE
July 23–24 | DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Olympia

2018 WASA/OSPI SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
August 2–3 | Hotel Murano, Tacoma

2018 WASA FALL CONFERENCE
October 9 | Location TBD

Legislative Action Center

With major K–12 education issues on the line during the 2018 Session, WASA is encouraging school administrators to ramp up engagement with local legislators. To assist, we have updated the WASA website with a set of advocacy tools. Please visit our Legislative Action Center for:

• Archived Issues of TWIO
• WASA’s Bill Watch
• Weekly Legislative Committee Schedules

We have also begun to compile a library of sample legislative communications including:

• WASA Talking Points
• Sample Letters From Your Colleagues

Visit the site throughout session to hone your messages and consider providing us with your communications to help us build our library. Our Action Center is available at www.wasa-oly.org under “Government Relations.”

Celebrate Public Schools Week!

WASA joins AASA and other national education groups for Public Schools Week, March 12–16, 2018. The week celebrates the achievements our public schools are making in this country and the critical roles they play in developing future generations of successful students.

As part of Public Schools Week, fifty national organizations will introduce a joint statement in support of public education on March 15 to promote the positive impact public schools have on our nation’s young people and the communities in which they live. To maintain this momentum, Members of Congress supporting this movement will share success stories about the schools and students from their respective districts. AASA has provided a toolkit to help local school districts to support this celebration.

“Communities are stronger and schools are better when we work in unison supports them and the axis of that support is public education,” said Daniel A. Domenech, Executive Director, AASA. “With the mounting changes in the education landscape, Public Schools Week creates a platform for Americans to express their feelings toward public school systems and why their success is a key determinant when it comes to our country’s future.”
Spotlight on a WASA Diamond Level Sponsor: Clear Risk Solutions

Clear Risk Solutions is more than a standard insurance provider; Clear Risk is an industry leader in both insurance and risk management services and solutions. Clear Risk’s mission is to make their services one of your greatest resources. The team of professionals at Clear Risk are focused on delivering customizable results that you can trust and that will better equip you to succeed in an unpredictable future. Clear Risk’s experience includes: third-party insurance administration, risk control programs, surveys and analysis, educational trainings, pre-litigation consulting, claims, and litigation management. They have an authentic understanding of the issues that affect their clients because a large portion of teammates are former educational leaders.

WASA, AWSP, and WSSDA are partnering to offer our Third Annual Equity Conference.

The overall goal of this conference is to increase organizational leadership capacity by providing systemic strategies for equity and access, so all students can achieve at a high level. Participants from districts, ESDs, and state agencies will focus on research-based high-leverage core practices necessary for organizational growth in leadership for equity.

Audience: District, ESD, and state agency leaders. Team participation is strongly encouraged.

The $250 per person registration fee includes light breakfast, lunch, and clock hours.

Register and learn more at www.wasa-oly.org/Equity18.

Don’t forget to check out the latest news happening in Olympia every Friday during session! Your copy of This Week In Olympia is waiting in your email inbox and online at www.wasa-oly.org/tgio.
Research Corner

On the Northwest Matters Blog

How a Teacher Mentoring Project in Alaska Gets Results

Creating Networks to Improve Teacher Recruitment and Retention: The Role of Education Northwest

AASA Corner

AASA Governing Board Elections

Due to increased AASA membership, WASA has qualified for a fourth position on the AASA Governing Board. There will now be two eastside and two westside positions. Elections to fill the new eastside and Frank Hewins’ expiring westside position will happen in early May. Candidates will need to submit a photo and short bio. Deadline to submit interest in serving on the AASA Governing Board is April 26, 2018. For further information, contact Executive Director Bill Keim at bkeim@wasa-oly.org or 360.943.5717.

Upcoming Awards & Scholarships

PEMCO Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards

One highly effective superintendent, central office administrator, or building administrator will be selected from a small district (up to 500 students), medium-sized district (501–2,000 students), and large district (over 2,000 students).

Application Process: January 17–March 21, 2018

Dr. Howard M. Coble Scholarship for Under-Represented Educational Leaders

Designed to assist talented, under-represented educators to pursue graduate studies that prepare for central office leadership positions.

Application Process: February 20–April 2, 2018

Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education

Designed to assist talented and committed educational administrators as they enhance those skills and abilities needed to serve as educational leaders in the field of K–12 public education.

Application Process: March 1–April 25, 2018

WASA Honorary Awards

State Awards

The state awards include the Golden Gavel, Barbara Mertens Legacy, Service to WASA, and WASA Leadership.

Application Process: March 1–May 1, 2018

Region Awards

These awards are handled at the region level and include the Award of Merit, WASA Student Achievement Leadership, Twenty-Year, Retirement, and Community Leadership.

Application Process: March 1–May 2018 (deadlines vary by region)

Superintendent of the Year

The Superintendent of the Year program is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, frontline superintendents.

Application Process: May 1–October 1, 2018

To review the criteria for the various awards, visit the WASA website at http://bit.ly/2g3DVOW.
## Region Events—March & April

Many WASA regions conduct monthly gatherings and/or provide activity reports in conjunction with ESD meetings (not listed below).

| REGION 101 | March 15, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | President—Brian Talbott | General Member Meeting, NEWESD 101, Spokane | April 20, 11:30 a.m. | Awards Luncheon, Center Place Event Center, Spokane Valley |
| REGION 105 | March 15, 8–11:30 a.m. | President—Shane Backlund | General Member Meeting, Topic: Systems Intervention/Assessment, West Valley | April 19, 8–11:30 a.m. | General Member Meeting, Topic: OSPI—Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal |
| REGION 108 | March 16, 12 p.m. | President—Ron Spanjer | General Member Meeting, Topic: Future Collective Bargaining Considerations, ESD 189, Anacortes |
| REGION 109 | March 22, 8–10 a.m. | President—Justin Blasko | General Member Meeting, Everett SD, Community Resource Center, Everett |
| REGION 110 | March 16, 12–1:30 p.m. | President—Tammy Campbell | General Member Meeting, PSESD, Renton |
| REGION 111 | March 16, 7:30–8:30 a.m. | President—Amy McFarland | General Member Meeting, Topic: Culture and leadership/Inspiration/WASA Elections, Fife District Office, Fife | April 27, 7:30–8:30 a.m. | General Member Meeting, Topic: Annual Community & Member Awards & Scholarships, Fife District Office, Fife |
| REGION 112 | March 16, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. | President—Andrew Kelly | General Member Meeting, Odyssey Middle School, Camas |
| REGION 114 | March 30, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. | President—Dana Rosenbach | General Member Meeting, ESD 114, Room 202, Bremerton | April 16, 6–9 p.m. | Region Awards Ceremony, Suquamish Clearwater Resort, Suquamish |
| REGION 116 | March 15, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | President—Tom Venable | General Member Meeting, Topic: Strategic Planning, Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center | April 19, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. | General Member Meeting, Topic: Location: Ponderosa |

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### Contact WASA

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### 2017–18 WASA Officers

President: Steve Webb, Vancouver
President-elect: Randy Russell, Freeman
Past President: Lois Davies, Pateros
Secretary: Vicki Bates, Auburn
Treasurer: Corine Pennington, Puyallup