



WASA News



August 2021

The August edition of the WASA News comes to you in a new and improved format. Our goal with the WASA News remains the same: to provide key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. For those who want a bit more detail, links to additional information are embedded in the text of this publication. We hope you find WASA News to be an efficient way to keep abreast of new information, emerging issues, and timely resources. Be reminded that previous issues of the WASA News can be found on our [website](#).

“Every storm runs out of rain.”

—Maya Angelou

Dear WASA Members,

August is a special time of year when educators, students, and parents are hopeful, optimistic, and energized in anticipation of the beginning of school. Throughout my career as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, this was by far my favorite time of year.

While the return of students to in-person learning is a source of positivity and hope, the deep and emotional conflict surrounding CRT, masks, and vaccinations is consuming many of you. The pandemic, and all that comes with it, has presented challenges of unparalleled proportion—this is your reality.

The **Resources** section of this edition of the WASA News includes information that you may find helpful as you open schools amidst the controversy and tension. I point you toward the first two articles (**Masks. Vaccines. Anti-Racism. Expert Advice for Schools Caught Up in Conflict & We Need More 'Good Conflict' in Our Lives. Here's How It Works**), which provide perspective on deep conflict and ideas on how to lead through it. I urge you to take some time to review these pieces, regardless of your own personal stance on these complex issues. I believe you will find them to be helpful.

We should all be enthusiastically celebrating the full return of our students to in-person learning for the first time in 18 months. Unfortunately, controversy and disagreement are dampening that enthusiasm in many communities, distracting us from what should be a joyous occasion.

As leaders, keep working to navigate through those distractions and focus your community on the long-awaited start to a school year where all students will be in the schoolhouse. I cannot deny that this is easier said than done. However, there is an opportunity to unite your staff and collectively extend a strong sense of enthusiasm and joy as we approach the start of school—even amidst the noise and distraction that is so pervasive in many communities right now.

Friends, I continue to be both amazed and inspired by your remarkable fortitude. Keep grinding. Keep leading. Keep a positive focus on the children and young people who are so eager to return to school.

People are watching; your words, actions, and attitude will set the tone. You still matter. You can still make a difference for kids.

I wish you only the best in launching the new school year.

Respectfully,



G. Joel Aune
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [WASA / OSPI Special Education Conference](#) | August–December. Registration is open.
- [WASA Fall Conference](#) | September 26–28 | Campbell's Resort, Chelan. Registration is open.
- [Conference & Workshop Calendar](#)



PASCO SUPERINTENDENT ELECTED WASA 2021–22 PRESIDENT-ELECT

Congratulations, Michelle Whitney. Click [here](#) to see the Press Release.

GOVERNOR'S AUGUST 21 PROCLAMATION

To view the Governor's August 21 Proclamation, [click here](#).

WASA WEBSITE UPGRADE

Earlier this summer, WASA launched a newly designed [website](#). The new site is designed to better support members in finding information when they need it. In addition to a sharp new look, the information is now delivered with faster search capabilities and clearer pathways to related content.



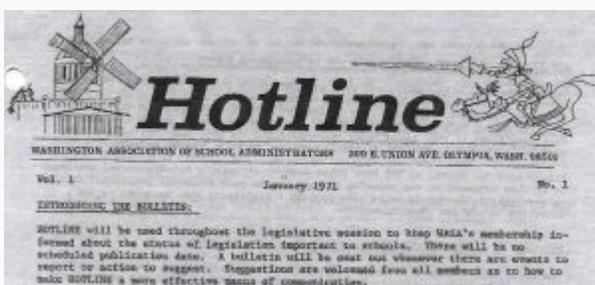
First Annual WALAS Conference, "**Beyond the Pandemic—Juntos y Unidos,**" will be an exciting opportunity to network with colleagues, hear motivational speakers, and become inspired to lead with passion and commitment to all children, but

especially our Latino students. Please join us in Ellensburg for this inaugural event Friday/Saturday, November 5–6, 2021. [Click to register](#).

BALANCED-MODIFIED CALENDAR PILOT-STUDY GRANT

Funds for the Balanced-Modified Calendar Pilot-Study will be available to 25 public school districts, tribal compact schools, and charter schools through a competitive grant process. Interested applicants must complete iGrants Form Package 173 detailing their approach to the pilot. The Form Package is scheduled to close on September 16, 2021. Successful applicants will be awarded \$75,000 during the 2021–22 school year, with an opportunity to carry funds over to the 2022–23 school year. Click [the link](#) to view the full bulletin about this grant.

CELEBRATING WASA AT 50!



Did you know?

WASA *Hotline* was established in 1971 during the legislative session to keep WASA's membership

WASA INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP NETWORK IS COMING SOON!

WASA is launching a STATEWIDE Instructional Leadership Network for Administrators of Teaching and Learning committing to a vision and focus on the learning and engagement of students and adults. This TWO-YEAR first of its kind project will engage instructional leaders that support teaching and learning from school districts across the state of Washington to foster a culture of learning in their school district while at the same time build a statewide vision for teaching and learning. To learn more about the network, [register here](#).

informed about the status of legislation important to schools. In addition, Hotline was sent to members monthly to provide information on events to report or action to suggest. During the session in 1975, members received *Hotline* and a weekly newsletter called *Target* as changes occurred in education legislation.

RESOURCES

WASA has developed a storehouse of resources related to **equity and racial justice**. The resources highlighted in this month's issue of the WASA News focus more on pandemic-related challenges confronting superintendents and school district leaders.

Last week, WASA and WSSDA sponsored a Lunch and Learn, "Leading and Facilitating Equity Discussions with Your Community." In addition to leading equity conversations, these strategies shared in this session are also applicable to other contentious and emotion-filled conversations that may be occurring in your community at this time. Check it out on the [website](#).

- **Masks. Vaccines. Anti-Racism. Expert Advice for Schools Caught Up in Conflict** (Education Week)
- **We Need More 'Good Conflict' in Our Lives. Here's How it Works** (Time)
- **K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021–22 School Year** (DOH)
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Community Toolkit** (CDC)
- **How to talk about COVID-19 vaccines with friends and family** (CDC)
- **6 Ways Schools Can Promote COVID-19 Vaccination** (Public Health Communications Collaborative)
- **5 Strategies to Help School Leaders Combat Pandemic Fatigue** (K-12 Dive)

WASA HAS MOVED!

Earlier this month, a deal was finalized to sell our office building—WASA's home since 1988. The WASA Office is now located at Capital Region ESD 113 in Tumwater.



In 1988, the WASA Board approved the Special Housing Taskforce recommendation to purchase a 6,400 square foot office building in Olympia that would serve members for many years.



In 2021, the building was sold and the home offices for WASA were moved to ESD 113 in Tumwater.

ASPIRING CENTRAL OFFICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



WASA proudly announces the all-new Aspiring Central Office Leadership Academy! This academy is designed to provide guidance and encouragement for all educators considering or pursuing their first role at the central office. The academy curriculum will be delivered via eight monthly Zoom sessions. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

FORECAST5 ANALYTICS

Forecast5 Analytics provides state-of-the-art decision support applications that enable school district leaders to harness the power of their data to make more informed decisions.

Contact:

Bob Manikas

www.forecast5analytics.com

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—Forecast5 Analytics, OAC Services, and PEMCO Insurance. We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their links to learn more about them.

OAC

OAC EDU partners with school districts by offering a full range of services, from pre-bond planning through project closeout and warranty management.

Contact:

Jeff Jurgensen

www.oacsvcs.com



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Contact:
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www.pemco.org

AASA CORNER

- **2022 Superintendent of the Year:** Nominations are being accepted to select Washington's Superintendent of the Year. Those making nominations are strongly encouraged to reach out to their candidate to make them aware of the nomination. Candidates must complete an online application on the [AASA website](#) by October 1, 2021. For further information or questions, **contact Shari Parsons.**
- **AASA National Conference on Education |** February 17–19, 2022
- **AASA Educational Administrator Scholarships |** Deadline: September 30, 2021
- **AASA Women in School Leadership Award |** Deadline: October 8, 2021
- **Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award |** Deadline: October 22, 2021



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