



WASA News

February 2022



The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides 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](#).

*“All advocacy, is at its core, an exercise in empathy.”
—Samantha Power*

Dear %%Lisa%%,

Sunday's **2022 Legislative Conference** featured perspectives from legislators, students, Superintendent Reykdal, our very own Dan Steele, and keynote speaker, Shankar Vedantam. With nearly 300 in attendance, the event's purpose was to inform and inspire school district leaders and board members to move forward with a common voice as we advocate for schools and students during the remainder of the 2022 Legislative Session. Thanks to Mike Nelson, Dan Steele, and Marissa Rathbone for organizing and delivering a stellar conference experience this year.

During the 50 minutes **Shankar Vedantam** addressed conference attendees, he offered a great deal for us to ponder as we engage with legislators during the next five weeks of the session. His thinking on the “hidden brain,” and how best to connect with and influence others will be useful as you meet with legislators—a classic illustration of working smarter, not harder, when it comes to effective persuasion in your advocacy efforts.

One of the most powerful concepts reinforced by Shankar was the notion of storytelling as an effective strategy when working to connect with and persuade others. Stories tap into a deeper type of human connection that resonates with the human brain. This notion aligns with WASA's urging to engage non-superintendents (as well as students) to better tell your district's story in pursuit of the policy and resources needed to care for students and advance their learning. We have literally thousands of compelling stories to tell.

By now, you have returned to the day-to-day challenges of managing and leading your school district amidst the difficulties of the pandemic. If you have not already done so, I urge you to pause and take stock in what we learned on Sunday. Use those learnings and develop a plan to step up your district's advocacy efforts in the coming weeks as we move into the last half of the 2022 Legislative Session.

Be reminded that your work to provide the best educational experience possible for the students under your care will either be hindered or boosted by the policy decisions made in Olympia this winter. Those policy decisions and the resources that come with them (or not) will have a significant impact on the short and long-term aspirations you have for your schools and the students in them.

Thank you for making time to lead and advocate for the children and young people in your schools. Be positive, polite, respectful, and firm in your conviction. Never apologize for exhibiting a passion and commitment to this work. I would suggest there is nothing more honorable than energetically, persistently, and smartly advocating for kids.

Best Regards,



G. Joel Aune
Executive Director



JOIN WASA'S 2022 SPRING CONFERENCE FOR SMALL SCHOOL LEADERS

March 21–22 | Wenatchee

WASA is excited to be in-person for the 2022 WASA Spring Conference for Small Schools Leaders, featuring keynoters Shelley Moore and John Norlin! If you are a leader in a district with 2,500 or fewer FTE, this conference is designed for YOU. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from and with your colleagues from across the state through content developed to meet your unique needs as a small schools leader. You can find out more and register [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As this issue of WASA News goes to press, more than one-third of the 2022 Legislative Session has been completed. When the March issue is produced, the Legislature will be in the home-stretch, with final compromises being completed on priority legislation and final negotiations occurring on the 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget. The 60-day session is set to adjourn March 10. Given the timelines, if you have yet to engage in the legislative process, NOW is the time to jump in.

As the Legislature prepares to move through its first set of self-imposed cut-off deadlines, WASA's key priorities are not only alive, but continue to have momentum. It is incumbent upon all school administrators, however, to keep the heat on to ensure these issues ultimately cross the finish line. Our "Big Three" are:

- **SB 5595/HB 1664** to begin the phase-in of enhanced staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model. The focus is specifically on "Physical, Social, and Emotional Support Staff."

- **SB 5563/HB 1590** providing enrollment stabilization funding to districts with declining enrollment and protecting levy capacity and Local Effort Assistance (LEA or “levy equalization”).
- **SB 5581/HB 1808** taking the first step in reforming the broken Pupil Transportation funding model by fully supporting transportation for our most vulnerable students: students experiencing homelessness; special education students; and students in foster care. Adopting one of these bills will position us to seek the next step: updating the base formula.

Not surprising, these issues were the focus of our Legislative Conference. For additional background and talking points, check out the “**Hot Topics**,” along with other **Conference Resources** to assist you in joining the fight with your colleagues. Beyond the “Big Three,” there are dozens of other issues—not to mention the Supplemental Operating Budget—we continue to work on and will continue throughout the remainder of the session. To keep you up-to-date, WASA provides in-depth details about K-12 issues in the Legislature with our weekly **This Week in Olympia (TWIO)** newsletter, along with the highlights in our more easily digested **Legislative Podcast**.



REGISTER FOR THE WASA/AWSP 2022 SUMMER CONFERENCE!

June 26–28 | Spokane

WASA and AWSP are excited to host the 2022 WASA/AWSP Summer Conference held in-person at the Spokane Convention Center this year. Join us for an opportunity to network and learn with fellow school leaders. This is a year of celebration—not only because it's the **40th** Anniversary of the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference—but also because school leaders like you have overcome unimaginable obstacles during the past three school years.

This year's theme is "**You Belong Here.**" Sessions will focus on belonging, inclusion, collaboration, climate & culture, systems, and student learning. Hear from keynote speakers Ben Nemtin, Shelley Moore, and Dr. Richard Antoine White. You can learn more and register for the event [here](#).



PEMCO ROBERT J. HANDY AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

Application Deadline | March 21, 2022

PEMCO Insurance and the **Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)** announce the 2022 Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards. One highly effective superintendent, central office administrator, or building administrator will be selected from each: a small district (*up to 500 students*), medium-sized district (*501–2,000 students*), and large district (*over 2,000 students*).

A \$10,500 award will be equally divided among the three winners. The award may be used for personal or professional growth and to support and disseminate information about a successful school or district program.

Self-nominations or nominations by others may be submitted by filling out [this form](#) and pressing the submit button. For more information, contact [Shari Parsons](#) at 360.489.3641.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR WASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITIONS

Terms begin July 1, 2021

WASA is seeking nominations for the following Board of Directors' leadership positions:

- Superintendents Component Chair-elect (*3-year commitment*)
- Business and Personnel Administrators Component (BPAC) Chair-elect (*2-year commitment*)
- Instructional Program Administrators Component (IPAC) Chair-elect (*3-year commitment*)
- Principal Component Chair (*2-year commitment*)

The deadline to submit a letter of interest for the positions listed is **February 16**. If you are interested in filling one of these WASA Board positions or making a nomination, please contact [Joel Aune](#).

WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

Nominees for 2022-23 WASA President-Elect are **Michael Green**, superintendent, Woodland PS, and **Mike Villarreal**, superintendent, Hoquiam SD. Congratulations to both on being nominated to serve as WASA President! Watch for information in future issues of WASA News to learn more about the candidates. The election will be held next August.



Michael Green,
Superintendent,
Woodland PS



Mike Villarreal,
Superintendent,
Hoquiam SD



WELCOME ABOARD KIM FRY!

We are pleased to announce that **Kim Fry** will be joining the WASA team in the role of Professional Development Coordinator, beginning **July 1**. Kim will replace former Professional Development Coordinator, Jamie Chylinski. For the past 12 years, Kim has capably served as superintendent of the Rochester School District. In recent years, Kim has been involved in the delivery of WASA's professional learning and is currently co-lead of our **Early Career Superintendents Academy**. We are thrilled to have a school district leader of Kim's caliber join the WASA team, and look forward to the positivity she will bring to WASA and the members we serve. Welcome, Kim!



CELEBRATING WASA AT 50

Did you know?

The Washington Association of School Administrators had its origin as the Department of Administration and Supervision in the Washington Education Association in the 1950s. At approximately the same time, fledgling associations of principals and superintendents were organized with leadership from the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. A major impetus to the growth of an association for administrators occurred when the WEA dropped non-teachers from membership. WASA, emerging from the early superintendents' group, was chartered as a not-for-profit corporation in June 1972.



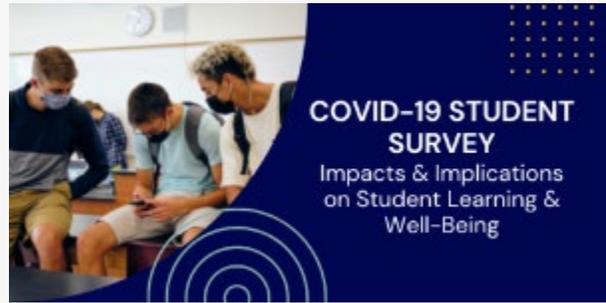
Original WASA logo

In the early years, the Association was managed by the elected officers and was still primarily an organization of superintendents. One main conference was held each year, and some volunteer efforts were made in the legislative arena. A major step was taken in 1974 with the employment of a part-time Executive Secretary. Murray Taylor served both **WASA** and the **School Information and Research Service (SIRS)** until 1977. During that period of time, programs and services were gradually expanded to include fall and summer conferences, with program components for non-superintendents.

For more about WASA's history, visit our **50th Anniversary landing page** on the **WASA website**.

FROM OSPI: COVID-19 STUDENT SURVEY

The **COVID-19 Student Survey: Impacts & Implications on Student Learning and Well-Being** is back for 2022. This survey is an opportunity for districts to gather student voice on the impact of COVID-19 on their mental health and well-being.



The survey was developed with schools and districts in mind. It's meant to be actionable, allowing schools to use the data that they receive to make changes. It's also been streamlined, and can be given in a 20–25 minute planning period. Districts will receive results in **April 2022**, in time to use for development of school improvement plans, reengagement plans, and other planning.

JOIN THE LAST CCDEI STANDARDS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSION!

Time is running out on your opportunity to provide feedback on the CCDEI standards currently under development at PESB. The technical advisory workgroup has made revisions to the first draft, reflective of feedback received thus far. PESB now has a **second draft of the CCDEI+ standards**. To learn more about this final opportunity to weigh in on the standards, visit the **PESB website**.

COMMUNICATION TOOLS: PEDIATRIC VACCINE

From OSPI: The Department of Health has created toolkits for healthcare providers and for schools to help them communicate about the vaccine to parents and guardians. Here are the direct links:

- **[What Parents/Guardians Should Know About Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine \(PDF\)](#)**
- **[COVID-19 Vaccines: Pediatric Vaccine Toolkit for Providers \(PowerPoint\)](#)**

SCHOOL ELECTION DAY!

Best wishes to the **140 school districts** who are seeking voter approval for levies and bonds on the February 8 ballot. School district leaders have been leading and working with community volunteers to inform voters and build support for these essential ballot measures. **Good luck!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **[WSASCD Whole Child Institute February 26 | 9 a.m.–2 p.m. via Zoom](#)**
- **[WASA Spring Conference for Small Schools Leaders March 21–22 | Wenatchee](#)**
- **[WASA/AWSP Summer Conference—Celebrating 40 Years June 26–28 | Spokane](#)**

Click here to download the most recent version of the WASA event calendar.

RESOURCES

WASA has developed storehouses of resources related to the **pandemic** and **equity**. The following have been recently uploaded to our **website**:

COVID AND PANDEMIC RESOURCES

- **COVID Vaccine Uptake has Stalled for Young Children. What Schools can do to Help** (Ed Week)
- **Communications Expert Explains: How to Talk to Parents About COVID Vaccination** (Ed Week)
- **Research Brief—Addressing Teacher and Substitute Shortages** (Hanover Research)

EQUITY

- **A Path to Equity Paved by Social-Emotional Learning** (School Administrator)

OTHER

- **Communicating the “Learning” in Social-Emotional Learning** (Learning Policy Institute)
- **What We’ve Learned About Implementing SEL** (School Administrator)
- **Rigorous curriculum doesn’t need to be overwhelming** (K-12 Dive)
- **How to Become a Better Listener** (Harvard Business Review)

IN MEMORIAM

WASA extends our sincerest condolences to the family of **Dave Alfred**, who passed earlier in January. Dave served as the ERNN Executive Director for nearly twenty years, starting in 1990. Our thoughts and prayers are with Claudia and their children, Matt and Kenny, during this difficult time.

A virtual memorial and obituary for Dave will be held on **Saturday, February 5 | 1:00 p.m.**

Please send a message or 5–10 second video of a memory of Dave to **celebratedavealfred@gmail.com**.

You can join with meeting ID: **453 066 4749** and passcode: **616161**



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsor—**Beresford Company, Inc.** We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their link to learn more about them.



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Contact: **Ted Beresford** and **Robin Stefanson**

AASA CORNER

- The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has released updated school **Behavior Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM)** resources, including a detailed guide of **best practices considerations for K-12 schools** to support BTAM training, and **guidance to uphold student civil rights** throughout behavior threat assessment.
- **AASA Launches "Live Well, Lead Well" Campaign for District Leaders**



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