



WASA NEWS
December 2016
www.wasa-oly.org

Mark Your Calendars!

- TPEP & Human Resources Workshops offered by WASA, WSPA, and AESD for central office administrators: December 7 at Olympic ESD 114, January 25 at Arlington School District, and February 22 at NEWESD 101. For more information, go to <http://wasa-oly.org/wasa/TPEP>.
- ERNN, February 10–11, Red Lion Hotel, Olympia. Registration is now open at <http://wasa-oly.org/wasa/ernn17>.
- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference, February 12–13, 2017, South Puget Sound Community College/Capitol Campus, Olympia. Register now at <http://wasa-oly.org/wasa/leg17>.
- AASA National Conference on Education, March 2–4, 2017, New Orleans Convention Center, New Orleans, LA. Register at <http://nce.aasa.org/>.
- WASA Small Schools Conference, March 13–14, Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee.
- Women in Leadership Conference, April 29, Campbell's Resort, Chelan.
- WASA Superintendents Workshop, April 30–May 2, Campbell's Resort, Chelan.
- WASA/AWSP Summer Conference, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane. Registration and housing opens January 17.

Legislative Report

- The Legislature's Education Funding Task Force, established by E2SSB 6195, continues to review school district data to make recommendations on implementing the program of basic education as defined in statute to comply with the Supreme Court's *McCleary* decision. The consultants contracted to collect school district personnel and compensation data for the Task Force recently provided their final report. The full report is available at <http://bit.ly/2gmK6RJ>. A summary of the report, as discussed at the November Superintendent Component meeting, is available on the WASA website under "Resources" and "Conference Resources." The Task Force is required to have recommendations for the Legislature by January 9, the first day of the 2017 Session.
- The most recent state revenue forecast for 2017–19 included an additional \$137 million above the previous forecast in September. This positive news, however, was offset by a troubling long-term budget outlook. The required four-year budget outlook, required to be adopted by the Economic & Revenue Forecast Council, projects a \$1.5 billion deficit in 2017–19 and a \$7.4 billion deficit in 2019–21. Because the Legislature must adopt a four-year balanced budget, crafting a 2017–19 budget could prove to be difficult. Governor Inslee must propose, using only currently available revenues, in mid-December. Because this initial budget (a "Book I" budget) will likely require devastating cuts to be balanced, the Governor is expected to also release a budget proposal with new revenues (a "Book II" budget).
- WASA's 2017 Legislative Platform, as updated in October, is available on the WASA website (www.wasa-oly.org) under "Government Relations." The core focus of the platform continues to focus on basic education funding. Aligning with WASA's goals, the centerpiece of the agenda is the ongoing effort to hold the Legislature accountable for delivering on the state's "paramount duty" and complying with the *McCleary* decision. The second point of the platform specifically requests the enhancement of state revenue to ensure fully funding basic education, and prevent drastic reductions of other necessary government services. The third point centers on the next major step of *McCleary*—compensation. The platform urges the Legislature to meet its constitutional obligation to fully fund a competitive compensation system. Language in this plank urges the Legislature to promptly address the approaching "levy cliff" and fund basic education labor costs before any potential reduction of local levies. The platform's final point addresses school construction. We will

be urging the Legislature to: (1) advance a constitutional amendment authorizing the simple majority approval of school district bonds; (2) update the current, outdated school construction funding formulas; and (3) provide a significant enhancement in capital funding to assist school districts with necessary new construction or modernization.

Other WASA News

- Submission of Washington's Consolidated plan as required under the Every Student Success Act (ESSA), has been put on hold to allow an additional 60 days for public comment.
- Recruitment is underway for WASA's 2017-18 President-elect. Candidates must be from east of the Cascade Mountains. Nominations can be sent to Past President Frank Hewins (fhewins@fpschools.or) or Executive Director Bill Keim (bkeim@wasa-oly.org).
- WASA is looking to fill the following positions on the WASA Board: Superintendent Component Chair-elect, Special Education Component Chair, and Instructional Program Administrator Component Chair-elect. Terms begin July 1, 2017. Please let Executive Director Bill Keim know if you are interested in running for a position.
- This year, with the critical role the 2017 Legislative Session will play in resolving the *McCleary* decision, the WASA Board felt we should change our Focus on Education talking points to deal with that issue. In response to that direction, WASA staff have provided a talking points document along with the data that will help tell your story to local communities and legislators. Superintendents should have already received an email with those resources, but they can also be found on the WASA website at www.wasa-oly.org under Resources and Focus on Education. The talking points can be used throughout the legislative session as you talk with your legislators and community.
- WASA's Fall Conference focused on **"Who's telling your story?"** Consider sharing your stories with WASA for posting on the WASA website and in *Hotline*. Please send information and pictures to Tricia McCosh at pmccosh@wasa-oly.org.