



WASA NEWS
September 2017
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WASA Calendar of Events

- **2017 WASA Superintendent and CFO Workshop**, September 27, 2017, Four Points by Sheraton, Seattle Airport South. Registration is open at www.wasa-oly.org/scfo.17.
- **WASA Fall Conference: The Leader in the Mirror**, October 10, 2017, Four Points by Sheraton, Seattle Airport South. Registration is open at www.wasa-oly.org/fall17.
- **WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference**, January 28–29, 2018, South Puget Sound Community College/Capitol Campus, Olympia.

Legislative Report

- Section 402 of EHB 2242 requires OPSI preapproval of school districts spending plans prior to placing enrichment levies on the ballot for collection in 2020 and beyond. According to answer 25 in the OSPI FAQs about EHB 2242, that requirement doesn't take effect until the fall of 2018: "The pre-ballot approval process will begin in the fall of 2018 to ensure that 'taxes levied for collection beginning in calendar year 2020 and thereafter' have been subject to the approval process." <http://bit.ly/2ffCYXN>
- The 2017 Legislature adjourned its third—and likely last—Special Session on July 20, 2017. Just prior to the close of the fiscal year (June 30), a new two-year Operating Budget and a court-ordered Education Funding Plan were adopted; however, a new Capital Budget has not been adopted. The 2017–19 Operating Budget spends approximately \$43.7 billion. This \$5.2 billion increase over the previous two-year budget is comprised of \$3.1 billion in required "Maintenance Level" spending (increased caseloads/enrollment, inflation, etc.) and \$2.1 billion in new "policy-level" spending. The bulk of the new spending, \$1.8 billion, is for K–12 education—with most of those increases going to fund the *McCleary* solution, EHB 2242. WASA staff completed its annual *End of Session Report* and disseminated it to all WASA members. The report contains full details of the 2017–19 Operating Budget, a comprehensive review of EHB 2242, and a review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. A link to the report is on WASA's Homepage under "Legislative Updates."
- WASA is continuing to analyze EHB 2242, the new Education Funding Plan, to ensure we can provide administrators with any necessary assistance as Washington's K–12 system converts to a new funding structure, along with a new salary allocation framework, and a new local funding model. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the new legislation, and we continue to strongly encourage you to work with your business managers and/or ESD fiscal staff to analyze the fiscal impacts of the new legislation and not rely on the many estimates provided by legislative staff. Many of their assumptions may not apply to your local district's circumstances. Impacts on collective bargaining and local levies are two of the biggest challenges, and we will do our best to provide detailed and timely information to members. To help you get a better handle on the bill, WASA has prepared a high-level summary of EHB 2242 for your review. It is available at <http://bit.ly/2eBShWw>.
- Also, WASA, in conjunction with the Local Funding Work Group (WASBO, WSSDA, WSPA, AEA, and AWSP), is in the process of thoroughly scrutinizing EHB 2242 to identify areas that will require legislative fixes in the 2018 Session.
- Even though the 2017 Legislature has adjourned, the legislators left a major task undone: the 2017–19 Capital Budget. Due to a political dispute over water rights, the adoption of a new Capital Budget was held up—leaving over \$1 billion of school construction funds on the table. The lack of a Capital Budget directly impacts the nearly 40 school districts (and almost 60 projects) that were in line for School Construction Assistance Program funding this year. A significantly larger number of districts, however, may also have projects in jeopardy. Even though the Legislature did adopt a

budget that re-appropriated unspent funds from previous biennia, they failed to provide OSPI with any funding for Capital Projects Administration. This means that OSPI may not be able to hire the staff who oversee the payments for those projects or approve bids for projects. We understand that OSPI is working with the Office of Financial Management and legislators to get approval to shift funding within OSPI to allow the Capital Projects office to function; however, it is unclear if this will be approved or how long this arrangement would last if it is approved. WASA is working with the Construction Services Group at ESD 112 and WSSDA to provide information on the current Capital Budget delay. Please see www.waschoolconstruction.org for more information.

- The Supreme Court continues to retain jurisdiction in the *McCleary* case. The Legislature filed their required annual compliance report with the Court on July 31, 2017. They claimed, “The State has remedied the constitutional deficiencies in the prior funding system,” and said, “The Court should find the State in compliance with Article IX, Section 1, release the State from its contempt orders, and terminate this appeal.” The plaintiffs in the case, the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) filed its response on August 30, 2017, and rejected the Legislature’s claims. They argued the actual funding provided to school districts is less than claimed, and the Legislature has not yet complied with the Court’s order to amply fund the State’s constitutional paramount duty. The Court recently submitted an order, setting oral arguments in the case at on October 24, 2017, 10 a.m. the hearing will be shown on TVW and will be archived at <http://www.TVW.org>.

Other WASA News

- WASA’s process to select Washington’s Superintendent of the Year is underway. Candidates must submit their online application to AASA at <http://soy.aasa.org/> by October 1, 2017. If you have additional questions, please contact Shari Parsons at sparson@wasa-oly.org.
- WASA’s members elected Randy Russell, superintendent of Freeman School District, as President-elect for 2017–18.
- **“Who’s telling your story?”** Consider sharing your school and district 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.