Welcome to WASDA’s July edition of our online Newsletter and our official kick-off for the 2019-2020 year!

The WASDA staff has been busy preparing for the new year. Membership renewals were emailed to all Wisconsin public school superintendents in May. Payment for the 2019-20 school year is due in the WASDA office by August 2. If you have not paid your dues, look for a reminder email to arrive in your inbox soon. Also, remember you can always join online at www.wasda.org.

Jessica will also be very busy updating member files. This is the time of year when we see the greatest number of changes in our membership. If you have moved to a new district, please keep her informed of your new address, email address, etc. Since the majority of our communication with you will be via email and our website, it is imperative that we are kept up to date!

We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Summer Legal Seminar at the beautiful Stone Harbor Resort in Sturgeon Bay at the end of July. This is always a great kick-off to a new year of professional activities. If you have never attended it, please consider doing so.

Finally, we hope you are all enjoying a great summer!
JULY 2019
WASDA E-NEWS

WASDA President’s Message WASDA
Executive Director’s Report Thank you to
Past President Steve Bloom
WASDA Board of Directors Election Results
WASDA Summer Legal Seminar
WASDA First Year Superintendents Academy Workshop I
Supporting Principal Excellence Academy
School Finance Workshops
New Superintendents
2020 National Superintendent of the Year Program
Smart Education Networks Design
The Capitol Report - John Forester, Dir. Of Gov. Relations
Superintendent Vacancies
WASDA Calendar of Events

www.wasda.org
Most of us have experienced the amusement (which often turns to weariness) when a child reaches the "why" stage. Questions abound about everything... why is the sky blue? where does water come from? what is time? There's actually a website called Whyzz which parents can access that provides them with kid-ready answers to how the world works. Wouldn't it be great if there was a website that would provide the solutions to the most complex questions and problems that our society faces, especially in the field of education? As we look to the start of another school year, there are many questions which continue to be asked among educators and those wishing to see reforms in education. Below are just a few questions which need to be confronted and answered if we are to improve our current educational system:

1) Why do we continue to teach content areas in silos... separate from one another? Why aren't greater amounts of time spent on reading and mathematics instruction from kindergarten through high school if those are two of the most important skills students need?

2) How do we best provide teachers with the professional development they need to inform/improve their practice? How do we more effectively leverage the skills and knowledge of our most talented teachers to positively impact more students?

3) What technological tools should every child have access to? How do we provide the technological tools for student learning to every child? How do determine if the utilization of technology is improving student learning?

4) How do we create the safest possible school environment for students and staff? How do we eliminate bullying behavior? Should licensed therapists and police officers become standard personnel in every school?

5) How do we personalize education to the degree that every child gets exactly what he/she needs to learn and grow every day? Why are we placing children in classes based on age rather than ability level? Why do teachers only spend one year with the same group of children?

While I don't possess all the answers to any of the above questions, I know where help can be found. It comes from all of us, as educators, working together to figure out the systems changes that must occur if we are to ensure the highest levels of achievement for every child. Working together- collaborating- we can create the educational system which will best address the needs of our children. WASDA provides each of us with the professional development and networking to respond to the tough questions on changes that are necessary in our schools. Your involvement in WASDA will make you better able to improve education and, ultimately, the achievement of all your students!

Cindy Zahrte
WASDA President, 2019-2020
cindyzahrte@tomah.education
WASDA
Executive Director's Message
July 2019
Dr. Jon Bales

“Superintendents Know Work That Matters Doesn't End with an Event or a Calendar Date”

Please click on the link below to hear a message from Jon.

CLICK HERE.

Please send your comments and questions to Jon - jbales@wasda.org.

THANK YOU TO PAST PRESIDENT STEVE BLOOM

The members of WASDA extend their sincere appreciation to Steve Bloom as he served as the President and leader of WASDA for the past year. Serving as President of the leading educational professional administrators association for the state is a very demanding and challenging position. Steve did an excellent job of serving in that capacity. The WASDA members recognized his leadership capabilities and attributes as he led the school district superintendents during this past year and wish to publicly express their sincere appreciation for the efforts given to improve the status of education in Wisconsin.

Steve joins the long list of Past Presidents of the WASDA that have successfully led our state association toward an improved and stronger organization. Steve, we wish you to know that your efforts and your contributions were and are hereby acknowledged and appreciated by the WASDA members.
Elections were recently held in the following CESAs. The WASDA members listed will begin their three-year terms on the Board on July 1.

CSA #3        Jill Underly - Pecatonica
CSA #4        Shelly Severson - Black River Falls
CSA #7        Dan Nett - New Holstein
CSA #8        Patrick Rau-Peshigo
CSA #10       Paul Schley - Cornell
CSA #12       Craig Olson - Hayward
Lg. Schools   Steve Pophal - Janesville

Congratulations!

Join us September 19 for the inaugural Facility Field Trip, a session offered during the WASDA Fall Superintendent’s Conference.

Sign up for the tour as part of the conference registration starting in July at wasda.org.
The Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators (WASDA) has worked directly with some of the most prestigious school law firms in the state to set up this year's summer LEGAL ISSUES SEMINAR. Below is an outline of this year's seminar. Please note that the annual golf outing will again be a pre-conference activity and will be an 11:30 a.m. shotgun start at the Horseshoe Bay Golf Club in Egg Harbor on Wednesday, July 24.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24:

5:30 p.m. REGISTRATION OPENS

6:00 p.m. DINNER (Included with registration fee)
Spouses may register for this meal on the registration form.
**Enjoy various stations set up throughout the ballroom featuring prime rib, Door County Cherry Chicken, stuffed shells with meat sauce, beef enchilada casserole, taco pizza and much more!**

7:15 p.m. YOU MAKE THE CALL
Again, the Wednesday evening program for the Legal Seminar will involve an informative, yet entertaining, way to learn school law. This year the attorneys will present cases with a set of possible answers and each table will have to select what they believe to be the correct answer. This activity should provide for lots of table discussion and an opportunity to put on your legal thinking cap while debating these legally complex cases with your colleagues.

THURSDAY, JULY 25:

7:15 a.m. COMPLIMENTARY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOR SEMINAR REGISTRANTS

8:00 a.m. - SCHOOL AND EDUCATION LAW UPDATE
9:15 a.m. Presenter: Attorney Kirk Strang of Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, s.c.

9:15 a.m. BREAK

9:30 a.m. - LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW UPDATE
10:45 a.m. There have been significant court and administrative agency decisions as well as legislative and regulatory actions which will have an impact on your district's employment practices. Steve will provide practical advice regarding implementation of these legislative, judicial and quasi-judicial developments.
Presenter: Attorney Stephen Weld, Weld, Riley, Prenn & Ricci

10:45 a.m. BREAK
11:00 a.m. - It's All About the Students
District Administrators are on the front line in responding to student-centered issues that often involve intertwining laws and complex legal considerations. This presentation will aim to provide administrators with practical guidance and legal compliance tips when accepting and denying students under open enrollment, initially responding to allegations of student sexual harassment on and off campus, complying with FERPA and Wisconsin Pupil Records law when releasing video recordings and sharing information with law enforcement, identifying key issues in charter contracts, part-time open enrollment, and early college credit program, and more.
Presenter: Attorney Tess O'Brien-Heinzen, Boardman Clark

12:15 p.m. NOON LUNCHEON (Included in registration fee)
Spouses may register for this meal on the registration form.

1:15 p.m. - LEGAL ISSUES ROUND TABLES
Double you're learning about legal issues. WASDA members frequently claim they learn as much from each other at conferences as they do from the speakers. In this session administrators will meet at round tables where they will share experiences on specific legal issues and create questions for a panel of some of the leading school attorneys in the state. Here is a chance to tap the best of both worlds.
Panel: Attorney Steve Weld, Attorney Gary Ruesch, Attorney Kirk Strang, Attorney Mike Julka, and Attorney

2:15 p.m. FREE TIME FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES

5:30 p.m. - RECEPTION
6:30 p.m. Catch up on the day's events and the plans for your evening with your colleagues. Registrants and spouses are invited to this casual reception.

FRIDAY, JULY 26:

7:30 a.m. COMPLIMENTARY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOR SEMINAR REGISTRANTS

8:15 a.m. - SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESSURE POINTS: PREPARING FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR
School Districts are facing great challenges as behaviorally challenging students interface with staff who are often unable or seeming unwilling to implement IEPs, 504 Plans or other interventions. Trauma, mental health, and other factors increasing lead to disruption, safety concerns, bullying, and harassment in schools. This presentation will review the liability of the school district as well as that of students, their parents, and staff. Appropriate disciplinary (employee and student) options, student placement, and service options will be reviewed. Gary will address, safety, preventive, and investigative measures, best practices, as well as the application of relevant board policies. Finally, Gary will provide recommendations to assist school officials in responding to recent Department of Education Guidance and relevant case law.
Presenter: Attorney Gary Ruesch, Buelow Vetter Law Firm

9:30 a.m. BREAK
9:45 a.m. - COMPLIANCE: LEGAL PRINCIPLES AND BOARD POLICIES REQUIRE THE DISTRICT TO DO WHAT?

So many of the "teachable moments" that arise out of the review of statutes, regulations, and court decisions dictate what can't be done, or give direction with regard to interpretations, strategies, or techniques for future conduct. However, there are legal sources applicable to school boards and school districts which simply mandate compliance with a specific directive. In addition, board policies and administrative guidelines often include such mandates, particularly directed at the District Administrator. This presentation will highlight some of the most important compliance mandates with the objective of creating an "audit checklist" for each district.

Presenter: Attorney Michael Julka, Boardman Clark

11:00 a.m. SEMINAR ADJOURNS
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WORKSHOP I
Sponsored by

JULY 31-AUGUST 1, 2019
HOLIDAY INN - STEVENS POINT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31:

11:30 a.m.          Registration

12:00 p.m.          Welcome Luncheon
                    Jon Bales, Executive Director, WASDA

12:30 p.m.          What is WASDA?
                    Jon Bales, Executive Director WASDA

12:45 p.m.          Break

1:00 p.m.           General Session

                      Introduction to the Academy
                      Kathleen Cooke (WASDA Academy Facilitator/KCMG Consulting)

                      • Introduction of New Superintendents
                      • Introduction of Academy Support Team
                        • Joe Donovan, President, Donovan Group
                        • Drew Howick, Practice Director, Howic Associates
                        • Michael Gallagher, KCMG International LLC
                      • Academy Format, Goals and Participant Knowledge and Practice Objectives
                      • Reflection on Practice/Data Collection Component - "To What Degree Have Academy Objectives Affected Thinking and Practice?"
                      • Introduction of Coaches
                      • Overview of Coaching and Mentoring
                      • Completion of KWL (What do I KNOW? What do I WANT TO LEARN?)

2:00 p.m.           What is Policy Governance?
Effective school boards fulfill their responsibilities through policy governance. Learn how the board adopts policy to define the organization's values, identify parameters for decision making and delegate responsibility to the administrative team.
Jon Bales/Kathleen Cooke
Creating and Posting Board Agendas: Dos and Don'ts
This session will provide an introduction to the basics of creating and posting school board agendas in compliance with open meetings requirements and related state statutes. Topics will assist in assessing your current practices and ensuring legal compliance for regular school board meetings as well as expulsions hearings and other special meetings of the school board.
Attorney Kirk Strang; Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy s.c.

Strategies for Promoting Effective Board/Superintendent Relationships
The superintendent is in a key position to assist the board to fulfill their governance responsibilities, reduce micromanagement and avoid conflict between the board and administrative team. Learn strategies for promoting effective board superintendent relationships that are used by the most seasoned, successful leaders.
Kathleen Cooke/Jon Bales

Thursday August 1:

Superintendent/Board Relations - Building an Effective Team
This activity will model, through active participation, facilitation and engagement strategies superintendents can implement to promote effective board operations and thoughtful decision making.
Jon Bales and Drew Howick

School Business Essentials and School Finance Ed Camp
The school finance team from Robert W. Baird Co will review key school finance variables and provide for each district, customized “need to know” school finance information for analysis, insight and increased understanding.
Baird School Finance Team

Effective Communications
Effective communications are the foundation for relationships and decision-making. Learn principles of communication that will promote your initiatives while engaging your stakeholders.
Joe Donovan, President, The Donovan Group
1:30 p.m. Know your Annual Meeting Laws
State Statutes require all common school districts to hold an annual meeting. Are you ready? Attorney Ruesch will share important reminders and tips to make your annual meeting a success. Attorney Gary Ruesch, Buelow Vetter

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Building Your 100 Day Plan
A new Leader's performance during the first 100 days is crucial. It signifies capacity in relationship building, organizational skills, vision, executive presence, accountability, work ethic, and character. Participants will collaborate with early career superintendents to identify top priorities for their first 100 days. (Special guests: Marggie Banker - Montello, Paul Mielke - Oconomowoc, Diane Tremblay - Baron, Brad Saron - Sun Prairie) Note: These are the people invited…have not heard confirmation from each yet. We can send the agenda out without the names at this point.
Kathy Cooke, Jon Bales and Early Career Superintendents

3:30 p.m. General Q&A: First Year Superintendent Needs

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

2019 FALL SUPERINTENDENTS CONFERENCE
Presented by WASDA
in cooperation with the
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

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SUPPORTING PRINCIPAL EXCELLENCE: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH COACHING FOR LEADERS ACADEMY
Presented By
WASDA & AWSA

School administrators need skillful support from leaders of teaching and learning; leaders who believe in coaching as a vehicle for developing exemplary leadership. The Professional Growth Coaching for Leaders Academy, presented by WASDA and AWSA, will equip superintendents, central office leaders and others who directly support principals with the tools and practices that enhance principal performance in leading schools of equity and excellence for student success. The overarching goal of the Academy is to assist with the development of instructional leadership skills that deliver breakthrough results for all students.

Knowledge Objectives:

1. Identify strategies to determine best practices in teaching and learning.
2. Understand how to use evidence of principal practice to identify next steps of leader improvement that foster a positive educational environment and support the diverse cultural and learning needs of students.
3. Learn a process for determining local academic priorities and problems of practice.
4. Understand how to identify a shared problem of practice and recognize strategies to impact change.

Practice Objectives:

1. Analyze coaching conversations and scenarios for effectiveness and intended impact.
2. Promote reflection on impact by engaging leaders in coaching simulations that use targeted questioning and conversation strategies.
3. Engage in a relationship with a principal for the purpose of practicing and analyzing coaching skill.
4. Facilitate coaching conversations that ensure equity and excellence in schools.

The Academy will include four (4) full-day sessions and the sessions are intended to build upon each other. Registration will cover attendance for all four dates and will open in July.

2 Locations:

Holiday Inn Madison at the American Center   Holiday Inn-Stevens Point

Thursday, October 17, 2019     Friday, October 18, 2019
Wednesday, November 20, 2019    Friday, November 22, 2019
Wednesday, January 8, 2020      Tuesday, January 7, 2020
Friday, March 20, 2020          Thursday, March 19, 2020
YOUR GOALS.  
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Wisconsin public school districts face unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The attorneys at Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, s.c., are dedicated to helping you meet the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities.
GETTING SCHOOL FINANCE RIGHT: FROM THE BUDGET TO THE LEVY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2019- HOLIDAY INN-STEVENS POINT
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019 - WASDA SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CENTER - MADISON
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WASDA is pleased to announce that it will be hosting two workshops entitled "Getting School Finance Right: From the Budget to the Levy." These workshops will be conducted by the DPI School Finance Team. Although open to all, this "how to do it from the ground up" workshop is geared toward new administrators or those with less than 3 years' experience. It will include:

# A detailed discussion and hands-on practice of the 2018-19 revenue limit calculation
# What to do with the October 1st Equalized Property Valuation from DOR and the October 15th General Aid Certification from DPI
# Determining the impact of the exempt business computer valuation ("Computer Aid")
# Conceptual overview of Equalization & Special Adjustment Aid (General Aid)
# How the pieces all fit together (revenue limit/general aid/levy; equalized property valuation/levy/mill rate

The extended time will allow participants to use their own district's numbers to do the various calculations with hands-on help from the School Finance Team. The goal is for you to be confident in your budget, revenue limit and general aid numbers so the board can certify your district's levy correctly. This is your opportunity to make sure you're getting it right!

Items to bring with you to the workshop:

# A laptop computer
# Your district's 2018-2019 final revenue limit worksheet*
# Your district's Oct. 15th Certification of 2019-20 General Aid from DPI*
# Your district's September membership count, including 2019 summer school*
# Your district’s 2019 Equalized Values received October 1 from Department of Revenue*

*This information will be available on the SFS Team website so districts may choose to bring a hard copy or simply access the information online while at the workshop.

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON!

Please call the STEVENS POINT HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER at 715/344-0200 to reserve a sleeping room for the evening of October 20.

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NEW SUPERINTENDENTS

If you are leaving your district, please be sure to notify the WASDA office of the name of the new person who will be assuming the superintendency. If the new person is either new to the superintendency or new to the state of Wisconsin, be sure to have them hold the dates of July 31-August 1 for the first New Superintendents Workshop for the 2019-20 school year, which will be held at the Holiday Inn-Stevens Point.
2020 National Superintendent of the Year Program

About the Program
Now in its 33rd year, the National Superintendent of the Year® Program pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead our nation's public schools. This program is sponsored by First Student, AIG Retirement Services and AASA. Download the FAQ here.

Eligibility
Any AASA Affiliate Association State Superintendent of the Year® who plans to continue in the profession may be nominated. This program is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents. It is not recognition of service at retirement or a program to reward current state or national leaders.

Selection Criteria
Each candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year® Award must first be named by their state association as the State Superintendent of the Year.

Each State Superintendent of the Year is judged on the following criteria:

Leadership for Learning – creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students in his or her school system.
Communication – strength in both personal and organizational communication.
Professionalism – constant improvement of administrative knowledge and skills, while providing professional development opportunities and motivation to others on the education team.
Community Involvement – active participation in local community activities and an understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

STATE APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Nominations for both the STATE and the NATIONAL award must be completed online. NOTE: to be eligible for the AASA National Superintendent of the Year® Award, any nominee must first be awarded their state superintendent of the year designation.

Awards
The AASA National Superintendent of the Year presents a $10,000 scholarship to a student in the high school from which he/she graduated. All state and overseas nominees receive a medallion and are honored at AASA's National Conference on Education.

Staff Contact:
Jennifer Rooney Director, Meetings & Awards
703-875-0709
jrooney@aasa.org
Smart Education Networks by Design

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) and its Wisconsin state affiliate chapter, Wisconsin Educational Technology Leadership are honored to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations. Last month we addressed the issues involved with Closing the Homework Gap: Digital Equity Strategies for Learning Beyond the Classroom.

This month we focus on "Smart Network Design for Transformation & Innovation". Education networks have evolved from addressing district operational and administrative needs to serving students and teachers in and beyond the classroom, anywhere and anytime. Innovative technologies, more access to the Internet, and powerful communication, creation, and collaboration tools are driving instructional transformation. Rapid change is increasing demand for greater network capacity and reliability. In the not-too-distant future, innovations in data visualization, embedded digital formative assessment, immersive, adaptive digital content, and interoperability will place additional demands on district networks. And all this comes in an uncertain funding environment. How can district leaders make high-stakes infrastructure investment decisions when technology, teaching and learning priorities, and funding are changing so rapidly and so constantly? Check out CoSN's one page document that identifies six core characteristics of the "new" network to include in your network design and architecture planning at this link.

CoSN has partnered with edWeb to provide a monthly webinar series on topics essential for leading digital transformations. School superintendents serve as panelists on each webinar and share their stories and expertise. Every webinar is recorded for viewing by those who are not able to join the live broadcast. The title of the July 8, 2019 webinar (scheduled for 5:00 pm ET) is "Smart Network Design for Transformation and Innovation: Reaching in and Beyond the Classroom". Learn more and register for this free webinar here.

If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact Brian Calvary, CAE, CoSN Director of Membership and Chapters, at bcalvary@cosn.org.

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