Welcome to WASDA’s November edition of our online Newsletter! As the leaves fall and the days shorten, the busy fall schedule for the WASDA office is starting to wind down. As always, we enjoyed seeing many of you virtually at the Finance Workshops and the Fall Regionals. We are looking forward to the Virtual SLATE Conference (School Leaders Advancing Technology in Education), that WASDA is co-sponsoring with AWSA that will be held December 7-9.

Complete details about all of WASDA’s events can be found on our website at www.wasda.org. If you experience any difficulty with the website, please contact Jessica directly at jschwedrsky@wasda.org.

We are always looking for new ways to serve our members. If we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve you!

Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators
4797 Hayes Road
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608/242-1090; 608/242-1290 - FAX

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE WASDA STAFF!

Jon
Barb
Nancy
Jessica
NOVEMBER 2020
WASDA E-NEWS

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WASDA Calendar of Events
Continuing Our Journey

- Inspiring keynotes
- Informative sessions
- Networking opportunities

Participate from the comfort of your own home or office — connect live or watch recordings. The entire convention will be at your fingertips.

Keynote Speakers

- **Green Bay Packers Legend**
  Donald Driver

- **Anna Chavez**
  Executive Director, NSBA

- **Gov. Tony Evers**
  (Invited)

WISCONSIN STATE EDUCATION CONVENTION
January 20-22, 2021 | Virtual

All sessions recorded and available thru 2021.
Registration open Nov. 1. Group rebates available.
Visit wasb.org/convention for details.
November is National Gratitude Month. Gratitude is much more than simply saying thank you. Gratitude can shift us from focusing on the negative to appreciating what is positive. Research has shown that gratitude can enhance our moods, decrease stress and drastically improve our overall level of health and wellbeing. Grateful people have fewer stress-related illnesses and experience less depression. So, in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, what do we have to be grateful for?

We can be grateful that this pandemic is not a whole lot worse. It could be more contagious, more deadly, mutating more frequently and scientists could say they don't believe we will ever have a vaccine. We could be physically kept at our homes for months and we could see a total crash of the economy. There are many more things that could be much more devastating than this pandemic, and while this pandemic is one of the worst things our generation has dealt with, the world and country have had much more debilitating times. Again, we can be grateful that this pandemic is not a whole lot worse.

Of course, for some people, this pandemic has been the worst thing for them as they have lost loved ones or their own lives. I teared up last week when I watched an introductory video to the UW-Superior EDAD 850 Finance class I'm teaching. The video was by Jason Breaker, the Elementary Principal and Interim Superintendent in the Markesan School District. On October 7th our colleague and WASDA member from Markesan, Duane Bark, passed away from COVID-19. Jason is taking his place. It hit me hard. At that instant, all the stresses I thought at the time were so insurmountable, now seemed so minimal. There were emotions of sadness thinking about Duane and his family, emotions of guilt for not reaching out to the Markesan School District to see who would be taking over and how WASDA could help, and emotions of gratefulness that my family has so far been unscathed by this deadly virus.

During these trying times, we tend to get wrapped up in our work; and by all means, we have to at times as we lead our districts through this pandemic. However, we still need to take care of ourselves and our loved ones. I've heard Jon Bales in his video clips say so many times that we need to take care of ourselves and our families, and so many times I've thought, that would be great Jon, once I get this or that done. After I heard Jason's video that morning, I left work an hour early that day so I could spend a little extra time with my family.

On a more upbeat note, thanks to all of you that attended the fall regionals last week. I hope you were able to obtain some useful legal information from Kirk Strang that can help you in your jobs now. I also appreciate the feedback provided to John Forester in developing our advocacy platform going forward. If there is anything specific you would like to see at the spring regionals, please feel free to reach out to your WASDA Board representative, me or the WASDA office. These meetings are for you and we want them to best meet the needs and desires of as many of our members as we can.

Enjoy some relaxation and good food on Thanksgiving Day, and a few days after. Call or zoom your friends and extended family since you shouldn't be seeing them. Spend some time reflecting upon the important things in your life. Most importantly, be grateful during this National Gratitude Month for all of the wonderful things you have and cherish. It could make the positive difference you need to stay energized, motivated and appreciative.

Together in Education,
Dr. Paul M. Schley, Superintendent
Cornell School District
pmschley@cornell.k12.wi.us
Executive Director’s Message  
November 2020  
Dr. Jon Bales

“Leadership Demands Regardless of Political Outcomes”

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.

Areas of Practice

- Litigation  
- Public Records  
- Crisis Management  
- Policy Development  
- Residency, Open Enrollment, and Tuition  
- Student Discipline  
- School Finance  
- Contract Nonrenewal  
- Labor and Employment  
- Transportation and Vendor Contracts  
- Open Meetings  
- Special Education  
- Construction Contracts  
- School Reopening

Our Team Expands Again

For more than fifty years, our School Law Team has been helping school districts throughout Wisconsin. And now we welcome Eau Claire Attorneys Mindy Dale, Lindsey Minser and David Richie to our team.

Our team’s unparalleled ability to assist on all matters impacting schools is the foundation of our mission. Now more than ever, our commitment to depth and breadth of experience will deliver precisely what school districts across the state need as they confront whatever challenges lie ahead.

To learn more about how our School Law Team can assist you, please contact Chrissy Hamiel at chamiel@vonbriesen.com.
DUANE BARK

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, Duane Douglas Bark went to his eternal home at the age of 61 years.

Duane was born on July 23, 1959, to Douglas & Jill (Myers) Bark in Lancaster, WI. At age four he and family moved to Montfort (from Brooklyn and Oregon) where he attended the Iowa-Grant school system. He graduated from Iowa-Grant in 1977. From there he attended the UW-Platteville and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Education. He furthered his education with a Master’s in Administration and an Education Special Degree.

On June 12, 1982, he married the love of his life Pamela Ferris and together they raised three amazing children who are his pride and joy. Duane was also “papa” or “poppy” to six grandchildren, who had him wrapped around their fingers. It was his sheer joy to spend time, play and even dance with them.

Duane spent his life as an educator, administrator, coach, leader and mentor. He has influenced and impacted countless lives in various school districts he has served. His greatest mission in life was to help others reach their full potential and in return he earned the love and respect of many. Duane was a man of faith in all he did, he led by example, and was a true testimony to God. He was an inspiration to all and left a legacy of love far and wide. Besides spending time with family, he enjoyed golfing, fishing, hunting, sports and of course mowing his lawn. He coached many sports for 32 years including football, wrestling, softball and baseball. He was an avid Badger fan, enjoyed watching sports on TV with family and friends, and attending all school activities.

Duane is survived by his wife, Pam, his children and grandchildren: Dr. Bradley (Candice)- Cora, David and Reuben of Muscatine, IA. Brian (Caitlin)- Henry, Russell and Eliza of Poynette, WI. Brittany of Markesan, WI. His parents Doug and Jill Bark, his “sis” Kim (Al) White, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews, mother-in-law, Charlotte Ferris, and his canine hunting sidekicks Beau and Gracie; other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by maternal and paternal grandparents, infant brother David, father-in-law, Dean Ferris and sister-in-law, Jolene Kaiser; dear friends Grizz, Jeff and Tom; and faithful hunting dogs Belle and Lexy.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have decided as a family to postpone funeral arrangements for Dad (Duane). We look forward to holding a Celebration of Life next summer, where friends and family can all come together safely. We believe this is what Dad (Duane) would want, as he always put the well being of others first.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Bark Educational Fund, Ergo Bank, Markesan, WI.

To send a flower arrangement to the family of Duane Douglas Bark, please click here to visit our Sympathy Store. To plant Memorial Trees in memory of Duane Douglas Bark, please click here to visit our Sympathy Store.

Invitation from Wauwatosa District to Participate in Data Collection on Covid Incidences in Wi Schools

The Wauwatosa School District is interested in pooling data with other school districts from around the state to better understand COVID-19 spread within schools. Recent medical literature has suggested schools may not be major contributors to community COVID-19 spread and our youngest learners may be least likely to contract and spread the virus. We are seeking quantitative data to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on Wisconsin school districts. We will share aggregated results of the survey with participating districts. This is an anonymous and confidential survey, so district identifiers will NOT be used in any data summaries. If you are interested in participating, please respond to the survey by Friday, November 13th. To complete the survey, click this link: COVID-19 WI School District Survey
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.
ARE YOU RETIRING IN 2021?

The requirements to receive the Honorary Life Membership and be recognized at the retirement banquet held in conjunction with the WASDA Annual Educational Conference are as follows:

A. The recipient must have retired from school work.
B. The recipient must have total experience in educational work on any level of at least twenty-five (25) years.
C. The recipient must have been a member of the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators at the time of retirement and for the five (5) years immediately preceding retirement.
D. CESA administrators who were county superintendents are to receive credit for the years served as county superintendents.

If you are retiring this year, please email the WASDA office. ALL WASDA members retiring will be recognized at the banquet. Depending upon current restrictions at the time in Dane County, this year’s convention will be held April 21-23 at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison. (Conference begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m., April 21, followed by the Recognition Banquet & ends at 12 noon on April 23.) If necessary, the conference will be held virtually.
AWSA and WASDA are happy to be hosting the Eleventh annual SLATE Convention VIRTUALLY December 7-9, 2020.

SLATE is a comprehensive educational technology convention designed to meet the needs of all schools and districts. This convention is designed for a wide variety of educators including Teachers, Principals, Associate Principals, District Administrators, Library Media Specialists, IT Coordinators, Directors of Curriculum and Instruction and other school leaders. Educators of all backgrounds and expertise levels gather to learn about the newest in education technology, as well as practical tips and tricks to implement in their schools and districts. While we may not be able to hold a live convention this year, we are committed to bringing you an interactive, collaborative, and immersive online experience.

As part of this year’s registration, convention attendees will also be able to access all videos, handouts, and materials for an additional 30 days after the convention ends.

The cost of attendance is $169 per individual. The Pre-Convention Session, Wisconsin Future Ready Leadership Summit, is $39.

Visit the SLATE website for complete program and registration information.
BVL NOVEMBER Update

We picked a few videos you might find helpful this month

Baird is dedicated to your district and your school finance needs. Although the BVL library is full of useful videos to be accessed anytime, this month in the business office, you might be interested in the below videos:

- Assets
- Balance Sheet
- Bank Reconciliations
- Cash Flow
- Fund Balance
- Grant Claims
- Liabilities
- PI-401 Tax Levy Report
- Revenue Limit Non-Recurring Exemptions: Voucher Exemption
- Why Will the Approved Mill Rate Differ From Residents’ Tax Bills?
- Why is the Debt Levy based on Calendar Amounts Owed?

If you have any questions on the above videos, or if you have any comments on how the BVL can better serve your district, let us know! Reach out to any member of our team below; we’d be happy to help.

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DISCOVERY EDUCATION EQUITY TALKS

Join us for Discovery Education *Equity Talks*, a live webinar series featuring our nation’s top education leaders with a focus on cultivating equity and excellence.

**Upcoming Sessions:**

**Thursday, November 12**
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CT

**Dr. Deena Bishop**
Superintendent, Anchorage School District, AK
DrDeenaBishop

**Dwight D. Jones**
Senior Deputy Superintendent, Equity, Denver Public Schools, CO
DPSNewsNow

**Dr. Sonja Santelises**
Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools, MD
SonjaSantelises

**REGISTER HERE**

**Thursday, December 3**
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CT

**Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto**
State Superintendent, Hawaii State Department of Education
HIDOE808_DrK

**REGISTER HERE**

Register to attend the upcoming session on Thursday, November 12th & December 3rd and you’ll also receive access to the *Discovery Education Equity Talks: Findings and Insights Report*. This research report explores equity in education with exclusive insights from the first season webinar series. Created in collaboration with McREL International, the report provides in-depth analysis:

- **Review of Literature: Equity in Education** including COVID-19, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Diverse Teacher Pipelines, Social Emotional Learning/Trauma-Informed Education, and more
- **Findings & Insights**
- **Conclusions & Recommendations**

#EquityTalksDE  |  @DiscoveryEd
Guest educational leaders will explore topics such as:

Assessment of Learning Needs: now and when schools reopen

For all students, with specific attention to the needs of:
- Historically underserved groups of students, including students who are low-income
- Students of color, disabilities, and temporary housing
- Multilingual learners

Allocation of Resources: staff, time, and materials

For extended learning time during the summer and for the 2020-2021 school year based on student need.
- Ensuring that the most vulnerable students are prioritized for instructional and socio-emotional support
- Opportunities to catch up and advance academically

Budget Implications

Reopening schools safely and playing catch-up with students who’ve been out of school for weeks or perhaps months.
- Closing this year’s budget
- Evaluating the impact of school closure
- Preparing for 2020-2021 school year
Effective Technology Professional Learning For All Educators

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.

One of the lessons learned during the spring of 2020 was the need for effective and ongoing technology professional learning opportunities for all educators. As school districts made the quick pivot to online learning in either a totally remote or a hybrid setting, it became painfully clear that many educators did not know how to maximize technology tools to assure that effective learning continued for all students. Additionally, parents, families and caretakers—many now serving as “co-teachers” or “learning facilitators” for children who are attending school remotely—find that they also benefit when technology professional learning strategies are provided for them.

EmpowerED Superintendent Monthly Webinar:
Effective Technology Professional Learning: Leading and Collaborating to Assure Success

The upcoming episode of the monthly EmpowerED Superintendent Webinar series, co-hosted by CoSN, AASA and edWeb.net and sponsored by ClassLink, airs on Monday, November 9, 2020. The title and focus of the November 9 webinar, broadcast live at 4:00 pm CT, is *Effective Technology Professional Learning: Leading and Collaborating to Assure Success*. Truly effective educator professional learning requires a coordinated, collaborative approach by school system leaders. The November 9 webinar features three district leaders from North Carolina’s Wake County Public School System. You are invited to join the lively, interactive conversation with Cathy Moore, Superintendent of Wake County School District and the district’s Chief Technology Officer, Marlo Gaddis, along with Allison Reid, Wake County’s Senior Director of Digital Learning and Libraries. Together, these three school system leaders will share the collaborative strategies they use to provide technology professional learning experiences for educators that truly improve instructional practice, whether learning occurs remotely or in a traditional classroom setting. Webinar participants will have an opportunity to engage with the panelists and learn how to apply the strategies shared within their own school settings. Free registration for this November 9, 2020 webinar is now available at [https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20201109/](https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20201109/).

Explore Previously Broadcast EmpowerED Superintendent Webinars:
The October 12, 2020 EmpowerED Superintendent webinar focused on Cybersecurity. The recording is now available along with other previously broadcast EmpowerED Superintendent webinars at [https://home.edweb.net/supers/](https://home.edweb.net/supers/). In addition, podcasts of previous webinars are also now available. Learn more at [https://home.edweb.net/podcasts/](https://home.edweb.net/podcasts/).

CoSN Critical Focus Areas: Issue One-Pager:
Effective Technology Professional Development: The Secret Sauce For Successful Classroom Transformation

The CoSN EmpowerED Superintendents web page presents a series of “one-pagers” to guide and empower superintendents and their leadership teams in leading digital transformations. CoSN’s one-page document on *Effective Technology Professional Development* identifies three critical guidelines for professional learning that are essential to improving classroom practice. Also defined are the factors school leaders must consider when planning for and evaluating professional learning opportunities for all educators.

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.