Happy New Year! Welcome to WASDA’s January edition of our online Newsletter! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. After a very different fall, the WASDA office is ready to tackle whatever 2021 may have in store for us.

First on the agenda is the 2021 Jt. WASB/WASDA/WASBO Convention. While we will miss see everyone in person in Milwaukee this year, we hope many of you will participate in this year’s convention from the comfort and safety of your office or home.

Complete details about all of WASDA’s events for the remainder of the year 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
Madison, WI 53704
608/242-1090
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www.wasda.org
JANUARY 2021
WASDA E-NEWS

WASDA President’s Message
Election of WASDA Board of Directors
WASDA Executive Director’s Report
The Capitol Report - John Forester, Dir. Of Gov. Relations
Election of WASDA Board Members
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SAIL Academy
Superintendent Vacancies
WASDA Calendar of Events

www.wasda.org
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.
Dear WASDA Friends and Colleagues,

It's with great optimism and excitement that I welcome you to a new year! Hopefully you were able to spend some time with your loved ones over the Holidays and have some quieter days in the office without many other employees in the building. I've come to cherish the Christmas break as a time to get a lot of work done in the office without interruption.

So why the optimism and excitement for the new year? While we still have the pandemic to deal with, we have learned a lot about what has worked well and what hasn't worked as well in our communities and around the state. We have had a lot of tough decisions to make, but hopefully for the remainder of the school year those decisions aren't as stressful as they have been the last several months. Our decisions should get easier as the number of cases decreases.

There is also the excitement of the vaccinations occurring around the state. While it will take some time to provide the vaccinations to everyone, it is a light at the end of the tunnel for us to keep focused on. Hopefully we will be able to provide employees vaccinations in the near future to ease their minds and make them feel a little more comfortable in school.

While it appears as though life may start getting closer to back to normal, we are a long way from letting our guard down. The mitigation strategies we have been requiring have made a difference in our communities. However, we need to continue these strategies for some time to come in order to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Our students are getting anxious for all of this to be over. Heck, I believe we all are getting anxious for this to be over! While some students have been in school in person, they still have been restricted in how much they can do together. Those that haven't been at school are really longing to see their friends, even if it's from a distance! We are social beings. The lack of physical presence has been difficult enough on adults; so now imagine how difficult this has been for our students!

Let's be cheerful and optimistic as we start this new year. Let's start talking about and planning how we may begin backing off on some of our restrictions in the future. Let's share with our communities all the good things we did last year, but more importantly the positive things we envision going into this year.

Our optimism, our excitement and our vision can propel others into the same feelings. The influence we have upon our staff, students and communities is more than we sometimes realize as they look to us for guidance and encouragement. Let's remain positive, optimistic, and enthusiastic in this new year and let's infect others with this same enthusiasm!

Together in Education,

Dr. Paul M. Schley, Superintendent
Cornell School District
pmschley@cornell.k12.wi.us
Executive Director’s Message
January 2021
Dr. Jon Bales

“New Year Brings Renewed Focus”

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

CLICK HERE.

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

Improve Your District’s Leadership

Strengthen the pivotal relationship between the board and superintendent and improve your district's overall leadership based on mutual respect and understanding.

Use the WASB Superintendent Evaluation Framework.

For one low, member-only fee, receive access to the Framework for three years and professional development to begin the evaluation process.

Contact the WASB today.
ELECTION OF WASDA BOARD MEMBERS

The following terms of board members currently serving on the WASDA Board of Directors expire as of June 30, 2021:

CESA #2-East John Gendron - Central/Westosha UHS
CESA #2-West Michelle Jensen - Deerfield
CESA #3 Jill Underly - Pecatonica

John Gendron, Michelle Jensen and Jill Underly are all eligible for reelection for a three-year term on the board.

Members of the WASDA wishing to place their names on a ballot to run for the board position open in their respective CESAs must notify the WASDA office on or before April 15, 2021.

In order to have a name placed on the election ballot, voting members of the WASDA must follow one of the two following procedures:

1. A written letter of declaration (or email) by the voting member sent to the WASDA office. OR

2. By three voting members of the WASDA signing a nomination paper requesting the name of a WASDA member to be placed on the ballot.

In the event more than two candidates qualify for the ballot, there shall be a primary election held not less than 30 days before the general election, to be conducted in the same manner as the general election. Ballot order shall be determined by draw of names by the Executive Director of the association in the presence of two voting members who are not candidates for the office. The ballots shall be distributed to the voting members no later than May 15, 2021, with an established deadline for return of the completed ballot of June 1.

You make healthy learning environments a priority.

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DAN BOXX

Dannye “Dan” R. Boxx, 68, of Medford, died on Sunday, Dec. 6 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, following his battle with cancer. Memorial services for Dan will take place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19 at First Baptist Church, Medford with Pastor Kim Swenson officiating. Visitation will be at the church from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. that day. Due to COVID concerns, masks will be required at the church for both visitation and services.

Dan was born on May 30, 1952 in Baldwyn, Miss., the son of Charles A. and Geraldine (McKay) Boxx. Shortly after Dan’s birth his family relocated to Kenosha. He attended Kenosha public schools and was a 1970 graduate of Mary D. Bradford High School in Kenosha. In 1975, he received a Bachelor’s degree in Physical Education and Health from UW-Oshkosh. Shortly after graduation, he moved to Medford where he taught physical education and health at Medford Area Public Schools and also coached various high school sports.

Dan chose to further his education and received a Master’s degree in School Administration from UWSuperior. He accepted a position with the Rib Lake School District where he was the Elementary/Middle School Principal from 1981 to 1997. Dan continued to advance his career in education, earning a Specialist Degree in Administration/School Superintendency from UW-Superior. He then went on to spend a combined 20 years as District Administrator in the Rib Lake and Almond Bancroft School Districts. Dan was proud to dedicate and serve 42 years in public education, serving the families of his school districts.

On June 12, 1990 Dan married Neva Mae Peterson in Las Vegas, Nev. They proudly celebrated 30 years of marriage this past June.

Dan treasured time spent with his children, grandchildren and their families. Dan especially enjoyed being in his woodworking shop creating gifts and working on projects with the grandchildren.

Everyone who knew Dan was aware of his love for golf. In 1996, Dan and Neva built their home on the Black River Golf Course, allowing Dan to play golf almost every day. Over his life, he enjoyed countless rounds of golf with “the boys” (his golfing buddies). Dan would like to remind them that he parred his last hole.

He attended First Baptist Church of Medford, and was a member of the Medford Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are his wife, Neva Boxx of Medford; children, Joshua (Heidi) Boxx and Zachary (Taylor) Boxx, both of Eau Claire, Kurt (Emily) Peterson of Mound, Minn., and Lisa (Nick) Baumann of Jefferson. Also surviving are his grandchildren, Charlie and Henry Boxx, Lincoln Boxx, Sophia and Colton Peterson, Blake Baumann; and a brother, Donald “Dwayne” (Julie) Boxx of Kenosha.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Jacob Boxx; and sister, Donna Kaye Giles.

Dan and his family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Harish G. Ahuja and the entire Oncology team at Medford Aspirus. We deeply valued the compassionate care and friendships that developed during his cancer journey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be given in his name to either Stepping Stones Shelter of Medford or the Medford Aspirus Oncology Department.

Hemer Funeral Service of Medford and Rib Lake is serving the family. For online condolences, please visit hemerfuneralservice.com.

Hemer Funeral Service of Medford and Rib Lake is serving the family. For online condolences, please visit hemerfuneralservice.com.
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.

YOUR GOALS. OUR MISSION.

Your goals • Our mission

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strangpatteson.com
KEVIN DEAN KILSTOFTE

Green Bay - Kevin Dean Kilstofte passed away unexpectedly on December 31, 2020, at the age of 60. He was born September 22, 1960, in Marshalltown, Iowa to Don and Joyce Kilstofte and was raised in Toledo Iowa with a brother, Greg, and a sister, Kim. He earned various degrees including a Petroleum Degree and a Master's in Education from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. He continued his education and completed his Specialist Certificate in Administrative Leadership from UW-Milwaukee. Kevin worked for Shell Oil in the Gulf of Mexico before entering into education.

Kevin and Tammy (Preiss) were married on May 16, 1987, in Rockland, Michigan and resided on Bayou Terrebonne in Louisiana. There, they joyfully started their family with daughter Savannah. Kevin had great passion and big love for educating and inspiring children to meet their potential. He coached three baseball teams during Louisiana summers and loved every minute of it. He happily had Savannah as his ground crew.

Moving to Green Bay in 2001, he worked for the Denmark School District as High School Assistant Principal and Principal, and when called upon worked as Principal of the Middle School. In 2012, Kevin joined the staff of Freedom Area School District as the District Administrator.

Family, sports, cooking, and education were his passions. He loved his family with his whole heart and would do anything for them. Savannah forever had him wrapped around her finger and grandson, Grayson was the light of his life and reason to push through some difficult times.

He is preceded in death by his father, Don, mother, Joyce, and brother, Greg.

He is survived by wife Tammy, daughter, Savannah (Levi) Schoenick and grandson, Grayson of Luxemburg, WI, and sister, Kim, of Tama, Iowa, special aunt and uncle, Jim and Mary Kirkwood of Ankeny, Iowa, his father-in-law, Merrill Preiss, a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held at Celebration Church, 3475 Humboldt Rd., Green Bay, on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue at the church on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, from 9:30 to 10:50 am. Funeral Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday at the church. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Rockland, Michigan. Proko-Wall Funeral Home is assisting the family. To send online condolences visit www.prokowall.com.

The family would appreciate mask wearing during the visitation and the funeral service.
AASA GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

It is that time of year when WASDA submits a CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the AASA Governing Board. Wisconsin has three positions on the AASA Governing Board. One of these positions will be open for a three-year term beginning JULY 1, 2021 and ending JUNE 30, 2024. This board meets twice a year. The first meeting of the Governing Board for the 2021-2022 year will be in July. The second meeting will be held during the AASA Convention in Nashville, February 17-19, 2022.

Any Wisconsin AASA members that fulfill the qualifications below are eligible to have their name placed on the ballot.

Section 3. Members of the Governing Board shall be eligible AASA voting members for at least three (3) years and members in good standing in the chartered affiliate for at least three (3) years at the time of election. Employees of AASA and/or a chartered affiliate are not eligible to serve as members of the Governing Board.

Section 4. A member may serve on the Governing Board as the representative of a chartered affiliate for no more than two (2) successive, three (3) year terms.

Additional information about the Governing Board can be found on AASA’s website. If you are interested in having your name on the ballot for this position, please email your name to Nancy Lund by MARCH 30, 2021. A short nomination form will be emailed to you for completion, along with additional information about the Governing Board.

A ballot will be emailed to all Wisconsin AASA members on Wednesday, April 15.
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. This year’s convention is currently scheduled to be held April 21-23 at the Madison Concourse Hotel in Madison. A final decision will be made in early 2021 whether to conduct this event in person or virtually. (Conference begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m., April 21, followed by the Recognition Banquet & ends at 12 noon on April 23.)

During times of uncertainty, finances are top of mind

WEA Member Benefits can help you create a financial wellness plan for your employees at no cost to the district.

- Individual financial consultations
- Financial seminars and webinars
- Monthly emails
- Financial resources including videos, calculators, eBooks, and more
- Quarterly magazine

Have questions? Let us help!
Contact a Worksite Benefit Consultants to learn more.
Give us a call at 1-800-279-4030.
BVL JANUARY 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:

- Budget Amendments
- Continuing Disclosure
- Enrollment Pupil Count
- Fund Accounting
- Grant Claims
- Who-What-Why Series Head Count vs. FTE
- Who-What-Why Series July 1 Aid Estimate
- Who-What-Why Series What is the difference between Fiscal Year and Calendar Year
- Who-What-Why Series What are the Different Types of Referenda

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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Diane Pertzborn
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dpertzborn@rwbaird.com
What's Your Game Plan?

COVID has placed unprecedented stress and illuminated core challenges in many school districts like never before. So how do you plan to productively and collaboratively lead through this to make things better for all over the long-term? In other words, what supports might be available for schools and districts that want to take a deep dive into a systemic approach for transforming conditions and results for students and adults alike? A strong option to consider is our SAIL Academy, which stands for the School Administrators’ Institute for Transformational Leadership.

See a selection of comments from current SAIL Academy leaders about why the overall quality of SAIL experiences is regularly reported in the 90% range and above.

"I strongly encourage district and site leaders to join the AWSA SAIL professional community. Sun Prairie started our SAIL journey with a third of our schools as a strategic support for our ESSA identified sites. We quickly crafted a plan to have all of our schools participate in SAIL at the request of our principals after they learned of the powerful experience our SAIL schools were having. The SAIL conference days and 100 day planning process is resulting in clarity for our staff and improved outcomes for students. The direct, honest feedback and coaching of our teams by AWSA SAIL leaders has been invaluable, too."

Dr. Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Equity, Sun Prairie Area SD

"Our administrative team’s experience with SAIL has brought a focus and a clear direction to our district and its planning. The cycle process keeps teams accountable and on-track. The coaches provide tremendous support and guidance through the process and are truly committed to your team’s success. We have learned so much and have pushed each other to provide clarity to a plan of action."

Nate Perry, District Administrator, Belleville SD

“SAIL has helped our team immensely in focusing the direction and identity of our school. Through the SAIL process, we have been able to lay the groundwork of who we are as a school community, refocus our roles as servant educators and always bring our work back to doing what is best for students. I would recommend SAIL for all schools, but especially for those that have a new administrative team that is looking to strengthen direction and establish an identity and uniform message for their staff and community. In working with SAIL, in a matter of months, we were able to deliver a clear message to our community about who we are and where we’re going!"

Gregory Lundin, Principal, Franklin MS, Green Bay Area PSD

“SAIL is exactly what our school has been looking for to guide our work at Prairie View! SAIL provided our school with the time and space to articulate coherent and specific goals for our leadership teams! Because of our work with our SAIL coach, we have made some very intentional moves that are positively impacting our students!"

Michelle Jensen, Principal, Prairie View MS, Sun Prairie Area SD
“Participating in SAIL has been a starting point in messaging to our faculty how serious the leadership team is about establishing collective efficacy, having a focused direction, and taking action in our school. This academy is not about writing words on paper and hoping for change. It is truly about having clear steps for action and as well as creating a system for accountability. With the SAIL process, we have been able to adopt a system for analysis and begin our journey for discovering why we are who we are as a school and what we can do to continuously improve for ALL students.

SAIL is a systematic way of thinking and problem solving that can be applied to a variety of scenarios across a school or district. Going through this process has forever changed the way I look at, and address, problems of practice. The team on which I participate consistently comments on the quality and impact of the SAIL facilitators and activities. This experience has brought us together as a team and is significantly improving the coherence of our school. I highly recommend SAIL to any team that is looking to make a difference in their school.”

Becky Newcomer, Principal, Hamilton HS, Hamilton SD

If your district/school has similar aims, consider joining our next launch of the SAIL Academy, which stands for the School Administrators Institute for Transformational Leadership.

SAIL is a two-year, team-based, cohort academy designed to transform the practices of the adults who serve the students through a common problem-solving and leadership development framework. The major goal of SAIL is to help each team identify improvement foci and approaches tailored to their local setting, from which to build local expertise at a level of depth that will lead to significant student achievement gains.

The SAIL Academy leverages the high-impact research base of Michael Fullan and others to provide some of the following features for participating district-based and/or school-based teams:

1. A common problem-solving process leading to a customized local solution that is founded on the biggest root cause issues of the organization
2. Development of a focused, coherent improvement plan that builds shared understanding and collective commitments through the process
3. Organization of collaborative effort into 100-day cycles of action that are aimed at cultivating collaborative culture, deepening learning, building organizational capacity, and securing reciprocal accountability throughout the system
4. Monthly coaching from your own experienced SAIL faculty member to support, guide, and accelerate your team’s journey
5. A two-year process of growing as a team, developing and distributing leadership in broader circles back home, and learning from the great ideas of other SAIL teams across Wisconsin who share in the journey

You can find more information about the SAIL Academy, workshop dates, costs, and registration forms through this link. If you have specific questions, please contact Joe Schroeder (SAIL Academy lead) directly at joeschroeder@awsa.org.

Registration will be open through March 31 (provided available seats remain) for the ninth cohort of the SAIL Academy, which will launch in June at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.
Wisconsin school leaders will be reimbursed up to 75% of the registration fee for completing an eligible Academy (will not be less than 50%). Reimbursement is limited and will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis, and eligibility is limited to licensed and practicing public or private school administrators.

Registration must be paid in full by November 30, 2021. Reimbursements will be processed at the completion of the Academy.

Have questions? Call us at 608-241-0300