Welcome to WASDA’s February edition of our online Newsletter! We hope you enjoyed the recent virtual Jt. WASB/WASDA/WASBO Convention and hope that you found the convention to be beneficial.

Complete details about all of WASDA’s events for the remainder of the year can be found on our website at www.wasda.org. Remember, we are not mailing out any meeting notices.

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
608/242-1290 - FAX
www.wasda.org
WASDA E-NEWS

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www.wasda.org
Dear WASDA Friends and Colleagues,

It sure was different not seeing everyone at the State Education Convention this year! While my board members said they listened to some good presentations and they loved not having to drive nearly five hours one way (actually ride, as I'm their chauffeur) it just wasn't the same as being with people and talking in person. We all know that relationship building and networking are always highlights of every conference we have, and we continually see that reflected in the surveys after each event. Most people like personal contact, the feeling of belonging, and having relationships to build upon.

In the spirit of relationships, here we are in February! Valentine's Day celebrations in Cornell Elementary are only second to Halloween! A little card and piece of candy can do wonders for students! It makes the students feel special when they get something from someone. Of course, moving into the middle school and high school, the gifts get bigger and the feelings grow stronger. Valentine's Day can be a "make it or break it" day for some students. Will they have the courage to give a Valentine to someone special? Will they get one in return? What if that special someone gets multiple valentines besides the one from you? This can be a trying time for teenagers! The lessons of love can be some of the toughest lessons learned for our students.

However, it continues from there. Even those of us married for a while know how the thought of doing something with and/or for our Valentine brings a smile to both faces. The feeling of knowing there is a positive relationship and that someone cares about us goes a long way. Don't let this Valentine's Day go by without doing something special and/or getting something special for your extra special Valentine.

When Valentine's Day is over, please get out and vote in the primary election for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. This position should be extremely important to all of us in choosing an advocate to help all children of Wisconsin get the best education possible. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction is instrumental in guiding the state both academically and politically. It's too important of a position to not pay close attention to. Don't wait until the final election to vote as your candidate may not make it to the final election.

On a final note, I know many of us are disappointed in the March 1st start date of vaccinating school staff. Just like we have to make tough decisions at times, DHS has to as well. They would love to see everyone vaccinated instantly, but it just isn't possible. Choosing the order must be extremely difficult. Should the 65 year old who has a higher chance of getting deathly sick go first even though they may have more flexibility to social distance or should the teacher who sees a roomful of students each day of the week that each may bring the virus to school? I'm glad it's not my decision to make, but we can all be sure to be ready and appreciative when our turn comes. In the meantime, keep safe and continue using mitigation practices.

Together in Education,

Dr. Paul M. Schley, Superintendent
Cornell School District
pmschley@cornell.k12.wi.us
Below is the nominating process for WASDA President-elect:

The office of President-elect shall be filled from within the membership. The Board of Directors' Executive Committee shall act as the nominating committee. This nominating committee shall place before the Board of Directors the name of a President-elect nominee from the board. The Board of Directors shall vote to confirm the President-elect nominee at the January board meeting. This vote must be by a two-thirds majority of the board members present at the January meeting.

The Board confirmed Nick Ouellette, Supt., Hudson, as the incoming President-elect at its January meeting. Nick will become President-elect effective July 1, 2021, and President effective July 1, 2022. Congratulations, Nick!
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.

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A Message from WASDA Business Partner Schneider Electric

The last few months have been draining, but our team has been keeping a keen eye open for silver linings and we're excited to connect with you about one of them: available funding to help you keep your students and staff healthy and productive.

[Watch this 59 second video](#) to learn what a healthy building is and find out whether your schools are healthy

- Don't take our word for it: [register for our webinar](#) on February 11 to learn how it works from a Superintendent

- Download the [Stimulus for Schools checklist](#) to help administrators leverage federal dollars to make buildings safe & healthy

- Blog article talks about how to leverage relief funds approved in December - $630+ Million for Wisconsin Districts! [read more here](#)
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 April 15.

Achieving the Grade.
The School Law Team at von Briesen & Roper, s.c. is the solution to your school district’s legal challenges, no matter the size or complexity. For more than fifty years, we have delivered outstanding results to school districts throughout Wisconsin. Our depth and breadth of experience has prepared us to handle all of the unique challenges faced by school districts.

To learn more about how our School Law Team can assist you, please contact Chrissy Hamiel at chamiel@vonbriesen.com.
Iron Mountain—Cornelis “Dutch” Vander Zeyden, 81, of Breitung Twp., passed away Friday, January 1, 2021, at Elkhart General Hospital, Elkhart, Indiana. He was born September 6, 1939, in Utrecht, Holland, son of the late Albert and Magdela (VanKreuningen) Vander Zeyden. Dutch received his Bachelor of Music and Education from Lakeland College in Sheboygan and went on to receive his master’s in music and education from Vandercook College. He then received his Specialist Degree in Education from the University of Madison and further obtained his Doctor of Philosophy in Education from LaSalle University. Dutch was the Superintendent of Pembine School for 12 years. He married Joyce Swanson on July 25, 1981, in Fumee Creek, Mich. She preceded him in death on October 7, 2020. Dutch enjoyed traveling, skiing, fishing, and especially the time spent with family and friends. Survivors include one son, Cornelis A. “Corey” (Maririonette “Chrrystal”) Vander Zeyden, McMinnville Tenn.; and two grandchildren. In addition to his parents and wife Joyce, Dutch was preceded in death by two brothers, Albert and Robert Vander Zeyden. A graveside service will take place in Pembine Cemetery, Pembine, Wis., in the spring. You may leave a condolence or tribute for Dutch’s family online at www.JacobsFuneralHomes.com. The family has chosen Jacobs Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Iron Mountain, Mich., to honor Dutch’s legacy of life. To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Cornelis "Dutch" Vander Zeyden, please visit our Heartfelt Sympathies Store.

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.
John J. Hosmanek

John Joseph Hosmanek, 94, died peacefully at home, on January 21, 2021, after taking his daily neighborhood stroll. He was three days shy of his 95th birthday.

John was born in the Carrollville neighborhood of Oak Creek, WI on January 24, 1926, to the late Josef and Susanna (Hruso) Hosmanek, hardworking immigrants from Slovakia. His youth was spent exploring the open fields and Lake Michigan shore, which surrounded his family farm, and instilled in him an appreciation for, and lifelong love of nature, a love he passed on to his children and grandchildren.

At the age of 17, upon his graduation from South Milwaukee High School, John joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in the First Marine Air Wing on the Solomon Islands, Philippine Islands, Okinawa, and China. Upon his honorable discharge, in 1946 as a staff sergeant, he enrolled at the Milwaukee State Teachers College, attending under the G.I. bill. On August 28, 1948, he married his high school classmate, Angeline Wolsey. They enjoyed 57 years of marriage, until her death on March 26, 2005.

In 1950, upon his graduation from the State Teachers College, he joined Angeline in Sheboygan, WI where he taught history and English at Southside Junior High School. In 1952 John was awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship, which took him to New York City and Washington D.C. to study the relationship between the United Nations and the U.S Congress. John earned his Master's Degree from Marquette University in 1955 and was named Assistant Principal at Southside Junior High School in 1956.

In 1960, upon the recommendation of his friend, and former Sheboygan neighbor, Otto Huettner, John and Angeline moved, with their young family, to Kenosha. John began his career in Kenosha as an Assistant Principal at Lincoln Junior High, under the watchful eye of Principal Florence Donnelly. In 1962, John was named Principal of the newly built Lance Junior High School. In 1966, he became Principal at Tremper High School. He left Tremper in 1970 to serve as Assistant Superintendent. In 1975, John earned a Doctorate of Education degree from Marquette University. He served as Superintendent of the Kenosha Unified School District from 1979 to 1989.

John received numerous awards and recognition for his work as an educator, and served on many local, regional, and state boards. He was President of Urban League of Kenosha, President of the Rotary Club, President of the Friends of the Museum, and served as chairman of the VFW Voice of Democracy competition. He also served as President of the Kenosha County Historical Society, and the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society, where he was the newsletter editor for many years. A letter he wrote to Lee Iacoca, upon the announcement the Kenosha Chrysler plant would close, initiated the establishment of the Chrysler Trust, which provided assistance for educational pursuits of Chrysler employees and their families. In addition, he co-taught school business management classes at the Marquette University and Carthage College.

Upon his retirement he traveled often, making many trips to eastern Europe with his wife, children, and grandchildren. He enjoyed a last memorable trip to Slovakia with his daughter when he was 88.

John enjoyed gardening, photography, playing Scrabble, and attending Wilmot stock car races and Milwaukee Admirals hockey games. For several years, he drove a stock car at Wilmot, maintained by the Tremper Car Club. He won one checkered flag and was voted most popular driver at the track. He was an avid reader, and his many books were a cherished possession. As well, John was a local history buff, and in 2005, his book, "Kenosha, A Postcard History" was published by Arcadia Press. He was a Green Bay Packers fan, as well as a Milwaukee Brewers fan.

Throughout his life, John maintained a happy, positive outlook, had an amusing story for every situation, and always valued his time with family and friends.

John was preceded in death by his wife, parents, his brother Joseph Hosmanek, and sister Ann Narloch. He is survived by his sister, Susan Zembrzuski of Port Washington, WI and his five children, Thomas of Blue Grass, IA, Joan (Henry) Turner of Kenosha, WI, Jane Kaiser of Franklin, WI, Mark of Muscatine, IA, and Jean of Kenosha, WI, as well as his two grandsons, Dr. Andrew (Elizabeth) Hosmanek of Wilton, IA, and John Kaiser of Franklin, WI, numerous nieces and nephews, and his longtime caregiver, Yuri.

A memorial mass and military honors, in celebration of John's life will be planned for a future date when family and friends can gather safely.

In memory of John, and during this time of isolation, especially for the elderly, please reach out by phone or card to those you care about. John was blessed to have so many people remember him in this way over the past year. Further memorials to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, 2223 51st St., Kenosha, WI 53140 or the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society, P.O. Box 100164, Cudahy, WI 5311 would be gratefully accepted.

BVL FEBRUARY 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:

What is Continuing Disclosure?
Continuing Disclosure/EMMA Filing
Categorical Aid: Library Aid
Categorical Aid: Per-Pupil Categorical Aid
Categorical Aid: Sparsity Aid
Categorical Aid: Transportation Aid

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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**VIRTUAL 2021 WASDA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
*April 21-23, 2021*

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions and orders for Dane County, the decision was made that the 2021 WASDA Annual Educational Conference, which had been scheduled to be held at the Madison Concourse Hotel, will be conducted virtually. Planning for the convention is underway and registration will be open in early March.

Since the 2020 WASDA Annual Educational Conference was canceled last spring, WASDA will be recognizing those members who should have been recognized last spring during this year’s convention, along with this year’s recognition awards and retirees. We will also be recognizing the three major award winners who were selected in 2020 as we were not able to recognize them last year. If you have any questions, please contact the WASDA office.

We are hopeful that we will be able to resume in person meetings in time for the WASDA Summer Legal Seminar in Sturgeon Bay, July 28-30. Please watch for future announcements!

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**ARE YOU RETIRING IN 2021 OR DID YOU RETIRE IN 2020?**

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 or if you retired in 2020, please email the WASDA office.** All WASDA members who retired in 2020 or 2021 will be recognized during the 2021 WASDA Annual Educational Conference. This year’s convention will be held virtually April 21-23.

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**15, 20, 25, 30 & 35 YEAR RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Those members who will have achieved 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service as a superintendent as of June 30, 2020 and as of June 30, 2021, will be recognized at the upcoming WASDA Annual Educational Conference, April 21-23. This year’s convention will be held virtually and will also include recognition of the 2020 and 2021 WASDA retirees, as well as the recipients of the three major WASDA awards selected in 2020.

If you will have 15, 20, 25, 30 or 35 years of service as a superintendent as of June 30, 2020 or as of June 30, 2021, please email Nancy Lund at nlund@wasda.org with the details (district and years served; i.e., 2000-2004) so that we are able to recognize you during our spring convention.
Strategic Technology Planning and Investment

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.

The Empowered Superintendent edWebinar Series - Monday, February 8, 2021, 4:00 pm CT
"Strategic Technology Planning and Investment: Priorities, Cost and Impacts in Today's Learning Environments"

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, February 8, 2021. The title and focus of the February webinar, broadcast live at 4:00 pm CT, is Strategic Technology Planning and Investment: Priorities, Cost and Impacts in Today's Learning Environments. In this edWebinar, Dr. Doug Brubaker, Superintendent of Texarkana ISD, TX, Dr. M. Ann Levett, Superintendent of Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, GA and Dr. Kristi Wilson, Superintendent of Buckeye Elementary School District, AZ and current President of AASA, join in an interactive conversation to share how they lead their districts in creating successful and impactful technology plans. Each superintendent explains the strategies they use to bring together a wide range of needs, interests, and district priorities to create technology plans that address the total cost of ownership, impacts on teaching and learning, and the value of those technology investments.

The current crises that have come out of the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the world how critical technology is to continue teaching and learning along with multiple other aspects of school operations. The three superintendents share the technology strategies they have used over the past year to assure that their schools continue to function for the benefit all students and families.

Free registration for the February 8, 2021 webinar is now available at: https://home.edweb.net/webinar/supers20210208/

Webinars in this series are also freely available as recordings at https://home.edweb.net/supers/ and via podcast at https://home.edweb.net/podcasts/ a day or two after the initial live broadcast.

Strategic Technology Planning & Investment - CoSN Resources

A one-page document, Strategic Technology Planning and Investment provides leaders with three essential focal points for SmartIT decisions. Additionally CoSN provides a multi-page Smart IT Guide that delves into questions school leaders need to consider around Total Cost of Ownership and Return on Investment. The SMART IT web page features a link for CoSN members to download a toolkit created in collaboration with the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO). The CoSN/ASBO resource, Working Together for Student Success: A Guide for SBOs and CTOs describes strategies for school districts' business and technology departments to successfully work together.

COSN 2021

The 2021 Annual CoSN Conference, scheduled for March 2-4, features interactive breakout sessions, LIVE keynotes, unique networking opportunities, and more. Learn more and register for CoSN 2021 at: https://cosnconference.org

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.
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.
TUESDAY, APRIL 13:

BREAKOUTS - Available starting at 12 noon.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE BREAKOUTS HAVE BEEN PRE-RECORDED.
Conference registrants will be able to view all 5 breakouts at any time starting at noon on Tuesday, April 13. Contact information for each presenter will be available for follow up questions. The General Sessions will all be conducted live but will also be recorded for you to view following the conference.

1. ALTERNATIVE SEARCH ENGINES
Most of us begin (and end) our searching in Google. Did you realize there are a variety of general and vertical search engines that provide different results? This session will explore a variety of alternative search engines to enhance your online experience
Bev Butula, Director of Library Services, Davis Kuelthau

2. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: "ROBERT'S RULES" AND THE WISCONSIN STATUTES
Rules of procedure are important for meetings of school boards, subunits, and committees to be as efficient and productive as possible. Parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order and the Wisconsin statutes are the primary sources recognized as governing procedures of such meetings. This presentation will review both the basic and the subtle aspects of these procedures, particularly those that commonly arise while WASSA members are taking notes to draft the minutes of the meeting. The objective will be to provide you with an enhanced understanding of the applicable rules of procedure in specific circumstances with which you are very familiar.
Attorneys Mike Julka and Doug Witte, Boardman & Clark LLP

3. THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY OF CULTURAL HUMILITY
From microaggressions to systemic inequities, this critical conversation will amplify experiences from the margins through a race explicit (not exclusive) lens. By leaning on her personal truth and reflecting on the joys, challenges, and successes felt across 15+ years of story-holding through her leadership on a Hate Response Team and within a department focused on campus climate, Amanda will present a cultural humility framework to push for an educational revolution that advances equity and justice.
Amanda Goodenough, Director of Campus Climate, Division of Diversity & Inclusion, UW-La Crosse

4. COVID AND COVID LEAVE MANAGEMENT
WASSA members have been at the forefront of COVID-19 management for school districts since the beginnings of the pandemic. That responsibility has and likely will continue until we are able to conquer COVID-19. Employee leave. Quarantine periods for staff and students. Isolation obligations. All impact the superintendent's assistant's job and often give primary management responsibilities to her/him in these areas. Join Kirk Strang of Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy for what we hope is among the final legal discussions of the pandemic and how to manage it at the district office level.
Attorney Kirk Strang, Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy
5. POLICY PARADISE
Are you tired of travel restrictions, wearing masks, and eating too much food you have to cook? How about joining us for a digital dinner of delectable policy delights, staged in a virtual setting of white sand beaches and palm trees?

Beverages:
• Appetizers:
  • Artichoke Special Update Dip - 2019-20 was a special year.

Salads and Soups:
• Split Policy Soup - Dividing can be disastrous.
• Signature Tossed Policies - Never forget to add these policies into the bowl.

Entrees:
Title IX Tilapia - Warning: may make you look like you swallowed the lemon.
Chicken Pot Turnover Policies - Change may be just around the corner. Be ready!

Dessert:
• Funnel Your Policies Cake - Some sweet tips to keep current on policy - whether you use Neola or not.


LIVESTREAM:
1:00 p.m. WELCOME - Jon Bales, Executive Director, WASDA
1:15 p.m. GENERAL SESSION
10 Legal Developments That Affect Your Job and How You Do it
Sometimes its all about you. This General Session looks at the executive assistant to the superintendent position and considers legal developments that uniquely affect those who serve and how they do their jobs. This session will focus on the latest legal news from Washington, Wisconsin State Government, state and federal agencies, and more, but with the WASSA member's perspective and essential question: what am I supposed to do about all this? Join Kirk Strang of Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy for a lively, fresh discussion of new legal developments and issues, and how they affect you as a new presidential administration, Congress, and agency personnel get to work.
Attorney Kirk Strang, Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy
2:30 p.m. BREAK
2:45 p.m. GENERAL SESSION
SAA Legislative Update
In this session, SAA Executive Director John Forester will review the SAA's top state budget priorities, discuss the status of the current 2021-23 state budget deliberations inside the State Capitol and highlight important ways that school administrators can successfully advocate for their students during the state budget process. Finally, John will leave time to answer member questions.
John Forester, Executive Director, SAA
3:45 p.m. ADJOURN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14:

8:00 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION

The Impact of 30 Second Moments
960. That is the number of 30-second increments we get in an 8 hour day. 960 chances to change a life. 960 opportunities to share a story. 960 times to make a student, parent, or community member feel like they are part of your school. Moments have the ability to stick in our brains forever. A sight, smell, or taste brings us back to our childhood. We have a responsibility to be intentional about how we utilize these moments. The fact is simply this...you will be remembered, the only question is how. Every 30 seconds matter.
Joe Sanfelippo, Supt., Fall Creek

9:00 a.m.  BREAK

9:45 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION

Supporting your Superintendent Panel
Our Superintendent's juggle many responsibilities and challenges on a daily basis. How can we, as their Assistants, support them at a higher more efficient level? This will be a collaborative session where a panel of several Assistants from districts of varying sizes will share creative and innovative ways that they support their Superintendent's on a daily basis.
Moderator - Jessica Doyle-Rudin, Asst., Kenosha
Kristi Deaver - Kickapoo
Stacy Lockington - Holmen
Tim Miner - Hudson
Shelia Lefeber - Kiel

11:00 a.m.  BREAK

11:15 a.m.  GENERAL SESSION

Legal Q & A
Back by popular demand! WASSA members confront a variety of legal challenges, and not a year goes by where superintendent's assistants won't see old problems generate new legal issues. Mix in a healthy dose of new laws and regulations, legal developments in our courts, and agency decision making, and there's almost no legal developments or issues affecting schools that WASSA members won't play a role in handling. Join Kirk Strang of Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy for this WASSA favorite.
Attorney Kirk Strang, Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy

12:00 p.m.  CLOSING REMARKS/CONFERENCE ADJOURNS
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
Statewide School Safety Threat Reporting System Available and Saving Lives; $500 in Promotional Materials Available with Train-the-Trainer Webinar

In September 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS) launched Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO) Resource Center - a comprehensive, one-stop place to turn with important school safety concerns.

According to U.S. Secret Service analysis of targeted school violence, prior to most incidents, other people knew about the attacker's idea and/or plan to attack. SUSO provides a place to report and respond to these concerns through 24/7 threat reporting system, threat assessment consultation, critical incident response, and general school safety guidance.

Students, parents, school staff, or any community members can submit a school safety concern or threat via the SUSO website, mobile phone application, or toll-free number. Resource Center staff work around-the-clock to respond to tips and to deploy a response locally by communicating directly with school administrators, law enforcement, and counselors. Nationwide more than half of public middle and high schools now operate similar safety tip lines.

Since its launch in late 2020, SUSO has received more than 1,000 tips and helped deploy mental health resources and welfare checks to multiple students.

SUSO is a critical safety tool that is available to all Wisconsin communities for free. To add this 24/7 threat reporting system to your school, complete the following steps:

Submit contact information: To be forwarded any tips submitted regarding your school, the contact information for one recipient from your school must be submitted to the threat reporting system. Submit information here: https://speakup.widoj.gov/update-school-contact-information

Attend a Webinar: Learn what SUSO is, what resources are available, and a train-the-trainer course that reviews curriculum for elementary, middle, and high school students. The curriculum is age-appropriate information on when and how to use the free statewide confidential tip line to report threats of school violence.

Additionally, schools that use SUSO will have access to $500 in funding to purchase materials to promote SUSO to students and communities. To learn about this opportunity and the available curriculum, sign up for an upcoming train-the-trainer webinar:

February 2, 1-2:30 p.m.
February 4, 10-11:30 a.m.
February 8, 1-2:30 p.m.
February 10, 9-10:30 a.m.
February 17, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
February 26, 9-10:30 a.m.
March 8, 1-2:30 p.m.
March 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

Click this video to see how the SUSO threat reporting system works.

Find more information at https://speakup.widoj.gov/ or contact schoolsafety@doj.state.wi.us with questions.