


## Welcome to the November Edition of the WASDA Newsletter!

It's hard to believe November is already here! As the leaves fall and the holiday season approaches, we hope your school year is off to a great start and that you are finding time to enjoy all that autumn in Wisconsin has to offer.

It's been a busy and exciting fall for WASDA! We've enjoyed connecting with so many of you at our Fall Regional Meetings, various Academies and School Finance Workshops. These opportunities to come together, share ideas, and learn from one another are what make our association so valuable. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

While our busy fall conference schedule is winding down, there are still plenty of professional development opportunities ahead. We encourage you to explore the upcoming events and programs highlighted in this newsletter, including the SLATE Conference (School Leaders Advancing Technology in Education), December 8–10, which WASDA is proud to co-sponsor with AWSA.

Complete details about WASDA's upcoming events and professional development opportunities can be found on our website at www.wasda.org.

As always, WASDA is here to support you. We continually look for new ways to serve our members, so please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or ways we can assist you. We are here to serve you!

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# Quick Links

### November 2026 Reminders

- The November the Member Meeting will be **Wednesday, November 11th**.
- Strengthen Your Voice in Legislative Advocacy! From the Schoolhouse to the Statehouse: The Building Blocks of Legislative Advocacy starts November 5th!
- Don’t miss the many opportunities to learn, connect with colleagues, and help shape WASDA’s direction and priorities for the year ahead. Visit the WASDA Calendar of Events for information on upcoming professional development opportunities, Regional Meetings, and other WASDA events.
- Subscribe to the Google WASDA Event Calendar so you never miss an event!

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Superintendent Vacancies

WASDA Event Calendar

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHELLY SEVERSON, SUPERINTENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BLACK RIVER FALLS

**Power of Our Collective Voice**

Hello, WASDA Colleagues!

As November arrives, I find myself returning to a theme that is a bit of a constant for me: gratitude. And while the calendar certainly gives us a reason to pause and give thanks, I remain committed to the idea that gratitude is something worth practicing all year long, especially in the work we do as school leaders.

Read Full Message Now!

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# WASDA Executive Director's Message
## *Damian LaCroix*

### WASDA Regional Meetings Recap

*An Invitation to Conversation — Reflecting on the Regional Meetings*

We just wrapped seven regional meetings across the state. This video takes you back to stop four, in Richland Center, filmed from the parking lot of the Ramada Hotel.

Here's why this matters right now: on November 3, Wisconsin voters elect a governor and a full slate of legislators — and more than 70 school referendums will also be decided across the state. **Best wishes!**

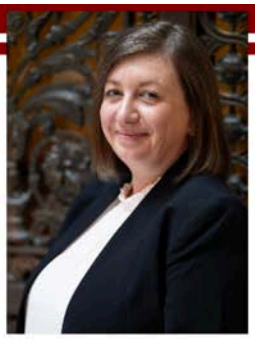
Between the election outcome and the feedback gathered both in person (and through ThoughtExchange), we have what we need to shape a specific advocacy agenda for the 2027–29 biennium. A summary overview will be shared during the November 11 All-Member Zoom, and the WASDA Board will finalize the advocacy agenda when it meets November 19 in Stevens Point. Look for Dee's just-in-time email updates to follow...

The regional meetings may be complete, but the real work is just beginning. Our shared agenda will carry us deep into spring, as we build momentum toward Joint Finance Committee hearings on the horizon.

We have momentum. Every step forward builds on the last. Let's keep moving *Forward Together!*

Please send your comments and questions to Damian - dlacroix@wasda.org.

View Video Message Now!



## Government Relations Update
## Dee Pettack
## WASDA Government Relations Director

This month's government update includes:

- Seven Stops, Shared Priorities
- Election Day Is Tomorrow
- School Funding and Property Taxes: Connecting the Conversation

Read the Government Relations Update Now!

# Demco Classroom design



## Five Questions to Ask Before You Furnish a Learning Space

Outfitting a school or library space can be an overwhelming process. While it's nice to have plenty of furniture, storage, and decor options available, it can quickly feel like an endless buffet of materials, sizes, colors, and features.

"It can be really daunting having a ton of choices," notes Emily Wagner, learning environment project consultant at Demco. However, that range can be a good thing — if you're able to find the best fit for your space, your budget, and your organization. Here are **five questions** to ask before you make any purchasing decisions.

**Continue Reading**

## Your library has evolved. **Your shelving should, too.**

The **Demco Ignite Furniture Collection** is purpose-built for modern libraries. Its mobile, modular, and cohesive pieces empower librarians to create multi-use destinations for all and **keep discovery happening** around the library.

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## Leading Small, Leading Strong: A New WASDA Leadership Collaborative

WASDA and WiRSA are partnering to launch a unique pilot program for superintendents serving districts of 1,500 students or fewer. Beginning in January 2027, this six-month collaborative will offer a trusted peer network, timely learning and practical strategies for leading effectively in the "office of one."

Nationally recognized leadership expert **Joe Sanfelippo** will facilitate the program alongside WASDA superintendents **Dani Mikula** of the South Shore School District and **Glenn Webb** of the Elmwood School District. Together, they will guide a highly relevant learning experience focused on real challenges, shared wisdom and meaningful action.

Running from **January through June 2027**, the collaborative will combine brief virtual sessions with in-person learning opportunities aligned with conference events participants may already attend—making the program valuable, focused and manageable.

Participation is limited to 20 superintendents and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at a special pilot rate of $495. Watch for registration details coming soon.

Miron Building Excellence

**This opportunity is made possible with the generous support of Miron Construction Co., Inc., the collaborative's Platinum Sponsor.**

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## Upcoming WASDA Events

SPECIAL TOPICS SESSIONS
PRESENTED BY WASDA

### November Special Topics Sessions

WASDA provides Special Topic Sessions to address emerging issues and timely topics. These virtual sessions were intended to provide information and guidance apart from other professional learning opportunities and respond to needs and interest in the field.

**Monday, November 2, 2026 | 9:00 – 10:00 am**

Say What Needs to Be Said: Feedback That Moves People Forward

LEARN MORE →

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Schoolhouse to Statehouse
FALL 2026


Schoolhouse to Statehouse
BUDGET EDITION


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## WASDA Member Resources



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- Fund Balance
- Fund Balance
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## Consortium for School Networking (CoSN)

**The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) in partnership with the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators and the CoSN Wisconsin state affiliate chapter, Wisconsin Educational Technology Leaders are honored to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.**

