

## Focused on School Leadership

School board members and administrators from around the state gathered on July 16 for the 2016 Summer Leadership Institute in Green Bay. The annual event focuses on helping school board members and administrators build the knowledge and tools needed to lead Wisconsin public school districts.

This year's Summer Leadership Institute opened with an uplifting keynote from Dr. Michael Weber, district administrator of the Port Washington-Saukville School District. Weber gave school leaders practical strategies on how to adopt a positive attitude and outlook in their personal and professional lives.

"You always have a choice," Weber said. "You can be happy and positive or just the opposite. Understanding psychology of the mind helps make us proactive. The psychology of the mind belief system determines how you will see the world."

WASB consultants Louis Birchbauer and Al Brown, led a session on "Effective Board-Superintendent Teams." Among other topics, Birchbauer and Brown discussed the importance of clearly defining the different roles of a school board member, which are focused on policy and governance, versus those of a superintendent, which are focused on administration and management.

"School boards need to think both about what they need to do and how

they need to do it since both dimensions of their work have a profound effect on everything and everyone else in the system," Birchbauer said. "Put another way — school boards need to concern themselves both with doing things right and with doing the right things." Administrators and board members from the Monona Grove School District shared their approach to teacher compensation. The district uses a "career ladder" approach that rewards teachers who demonstrate and show evidence of advanced classroom teaching practices, professional collaboration, reflective practice, professional growth, and formal or informal leadership. New teachers begin at the mentorship level, move to post-mentorship and then to the professional levels. The top two levels are professional leader teacher and distinguished teacher.

The Green Bay Area Public School District shared its work in improving equity and parent engagement in the district. Reva Shaw, district equity coordinator, said there are two main focuses of the district's work: changing the district mindset to focus on equity versus equality and bridging families with the school district and greater community.

"Family engagement needs to be a well-planned process involving the entire school community," Shaw said. "It cannot be a one-time program. It needs to have a set of day-to-day practices, attitudes, beliefs and interac-



tions that support learning at home as well as at school."

Dan Mallin, WASB policy and legal services counsel, led a two-part session on the "Legal and Policy-Making Duties of Wisconsin School Board Members." The session, aimed at new school board members, used guidance from the National School Boards Association's "The Key Work of School Boards" and current policy and legal requirements to clearly define the role and duties of successful school board members. □

*For presentations from all of the sessions, visit [wasb.org](http://wasb.org). Select "Meetings and Events" and then "Event Recaps."*

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

The WASB hosts a series of webinars throughout the year on legal, policy, and other important school leadership topics. Here is a look at the upcoming webinars from the WASB.

#### ■ PUPIL RECORDS

**Aug. 2, 12-1 pm** | *Presenter: Bob Butler, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel*

This presentation covers state and federal laws relating to the maintenance and release of pupil records. We will cover the basics of the pupil records law and focus on limitations to the release of pupil records and on recent changes in the law.

#### ■ FMLA: STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

**Aug. 10, 12 – 1 pm** | *Presenter: Barry Forbes, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel*

This webinar will review requirements under the Wisconsin and Federal Family and Medical Leave Acts (FMLA), including eligibility for leave for birth or adoption, serious health conditions of employees, parents, spouses and children, and the various leaves available

# Advocating for Wisconsin Schools

WASB leadership visits congressional representatives in D.C.

In June, WASB President Stu Olson (Shell Lake), Vice President Terry McCloskey (Three Lakes), 2nd Vice President Mary Jo Rozmenoski (Black River Falls), Immediate Past President Wanda Owens (Barneveld), Executive Director John Ashley, and lobbyists Dan Rossmiller and Chris Kulow travelled to Washington, D.C. to attend the National School Boards Association's annual Advocacy Institute and meet with federal lawmakers.

The WASB delegation received a full day of training on key federal education issues and also heard addresses by U.S. Education Secretary John King as well as Senate Education Chair Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.). King and Alexander shared their views regarding the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. While Secretary King spoke of ESSA's roots as civil rights legislation, Sen. Alexander emphasized that ESSA was intended to return authority from the federal government back to states and local school districts and should be interpreted in that light.

Then it was off to Capitol Hill to meet with Wisconsin's congressional offices to discuss federal issues impacting Wisconsin schools. The WASB thanked our senators and representatives for voting in favor of ESSA



WASB President Stu Olson (speaking) discusses education priorities with Sen. Ron Johnson.

and urged them to closely monitor regulations being proposed by the U.S. Department of Education to ensure ESSA implementation follows the law as written by Congress.

In meetings with each office of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, the WASB also encouraged reauthorization of the federal Child Nutrition Act, which governs school meal programs, and requested that schools receive more flexibility and relief from federal mandates.

The WASB also encouraged lawmakers to reauthorize the Carl Perkins Act (career and technical education) to encourage students to prepare for the world of work, help teachers receive appropriate professional development,

and help schools build and strengthen partnerships with local businesses and technical colleges to produce career-ready graduates.

Finally, the WASB urged Congress to prioritize funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Title I (assistance to districts and schools serving low-income children) and restore cuts to federal Impact Aid proposed in the President's recommended budget. Impact Aid provides federal financial assistance to school districts impacted by federal activities and compensates districts for their loss of local property tax revenue if they have non-taxable properties (such as military installations or tribal lands) within their boundaries. □

to military service men and women and their families. Employer notice and documentation requirements will be covered along with employer and employee rights and obligations during and after FMLA leaves.

## ■ PUPIL EXPULSION

**Sept. 14, 1:30-2:30 pm** | Presenter: Bob Butler, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel

This webinar presentation covers state and federal laws relating to pupil expulsions. The presentation will provide a roadmap for considering the expulsion of pupils

and to help avoid common pitfalls when doing so. The presentation will focus on procedures for administrators as well as for boards that conduct their own expulsion hearings.

*Please note:* These and all previous webinars are recorded and available on demand. WASB members can purchase any webinar and watch when their schedule allows. Upcoming live and pre-recorded webinars are listed on the WASB Webinars page at [wasb.org](http://wasb.org) (select "Meetings & Events" and then "Webinars").



## 2016 FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND ADVANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION

DATES: SEPT. & OCT. – VARIES PER LOCATION  
LOCATIONS DETERMINED BY REGION



UPCOMING EVENTS

## WASB Fall Regional Meetings

The WASB Fall Regional Meetings bring together school leaders in their respective WASB regions to recognize accomplishments, listen to a feature presentation, and hear about WASB’s activities and plans.

This year, the feature presentation will address “The Continuous Improvement of School Boards.” The presentation will focus on how successful school boards use strategic planning and data-based decision making to continuously drive improvement.

In addition to the feature presen-

tation, the Regional Meetings take time to recognize school board members who have reached a new level in the WASB Member Recognition Program. School board members earn points by attending WASB and National School Boards Association (NSBA) programs and activities.

WASB Executive Director John Ashley will wrap up the meeting with the Executive Director’s Report, which will inform members about the activities and future direction of the WASB. □

- Region 1** | Oct. 18 – Washburn\*\*  
Oct. 19 – Rice Lake\*\*
  - Region 2** | Oct. 20 – Minocqua\*
  - Region 3** | Oct. 25 – Green Bay
  - Region 4** | Sept. 20 – Eau Claire
  - Region 5** | Sept. 21 – Rothschild\*
  - Region 6** | Sept. 27 – La Crosse
  - Region 7** | Oct. 27 – Neenah\*
  - Region 8** | Oct. 26 – Kiel
  - Region 9** | Oct. 11 – Fennimore
  - Region 10** | Sept. 13 – Wis. Dells
  - Region 11 & 15** | Sept. 28 – Pewaukee\*
  - Region 12** | Oct. 6 – Stoughton
  - Region 13** | Oct. 5 – Elkhorn\*
  - Region 14** | TBD – Milwaukee
- \* Denotes regions with elections for WASB Board of Directors  
\*\* Denotes two options for Region 1

PRE-REGIONAL MEETING WORKSHOP

### Coming to Order: How to Plan and Conduct Effective School Board Meetings

All school boards conduct their business in similar meetings. However, the effectiveness of their meetings can vary widely. How a board sets its agendas and plans for and conducts its meetings can impact the board’s success in moving the needle on student achievement. In this workshop, a WASB attorney will review the legal requirements for meetings and board member roles as well as how to structure meetings to achieve different purposes, conduct an effective board meeting, record meetings appropriately, and accommodate public participation.

**Workshops will be held immediately prior** to the Regional Meetings from 4:30-6 pm at the same facility. Members are welcome to attend workshops in any region. Regional Meeting registration is not required. □



## Are You Receiving Our Emails?

The WASB wants to ensure you are receiving all of the timely legislative updates, legal and policy notices, and meeting invitations that you are entitled to receive with your membership.

If you are not receiving WASB emails or would prefer they be sent to a different email address, please contact us at [info@wasb.org](mailto:info@wasb.org) or toll-free at 1-877-705-4422.

WASB emails include the weekly *eConnection* newsletter, the weekly *Legislative Update*, periodic event emails, and, among others, the *Legal & Policy Newsletter* (new in July 2016).