

Recapping the WASB Fall Events

Here is a look at the events that the WASB held this fall. Full event recaps along with presentations can be found on the WASB website (wasb.org). Select “Meetings and Events” and then “Event Recaps.” *Member log-in required.*

■ Legislative Advocacy Conference | Nov. 12, Stevens Point

The 2016 Legislative Advocacy Conference, which took place Nov. 12 in Stevens Point, gave WASB members the opportunity to hear from experts on major public education issues headed into the next state budget and provided attendees with crucial information on the legislative process going into next session.

Charles Franklin, director of the Marquette Law School Poll, discussed the historic Nov. 8 election and gave his take on why the polling did not correctly predict the winner of the presidential race. He also discussed polling attitudes on public education in Wisconsin. Franklin shared that Wisconsinites were strongly opposed to the \$127 million that was cut from education funding in the first year of the 2015-17 state budget — a resounding 78 percent opposed this cut. Similarly, according to Franklin’s polls, 57 percent of Wisconsin citizen polled said that state funding is too little for public schools.



Todd Berry, president of the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance (WISTAX), gave his take on the financial standing of the state heading into the next state budget, and how past budgeting decisions by Wisconsin governors and state legislatures affect today’s fiscal climate. Berry also talked about some of the bigger issues affecting the state’s fiscal health, including the fact that the state is losing population through people moving out. The state has lost more than 27,000 people to migration since 2010. Wisconsin’s long-term economic success requires attracting people, not losing them.

“This is the biggest economic question facing Wisconsin through 2040,” Berry told UrbanMilwaukee.com. “If we cannot attract enough people to grow our workforce, Wisconsin companies will expand operations elsewhere, and the state will look unattractive to companies seeking to relocate.”

David DeGuire, assistant director of Teacher Education, Professional Development, and Licensing at the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), spoke about what the DPI is doing to address teacher shortages in Wisconsin and also heard feedback from attendees on what they are experiencing in their districts. DeGuire talked about DPI’s Wisconsin Talent Development Framework, which seeks to attract, prepare, develop, support and retain teachers. The idea behind the framework is to develop a seamless system of educator development that begins in preservice preparation and continues through an educator’s career. Other work includes attracting students to the teaching profession. Through a survey given to all Wisconsin districts (348 responded) 16 districts host a chapter of Future Teachers or Educators Rising and 207 districts offer students interested in teaching job shadowing or mentoring opportunities.

Dan Rossmiller and Chris Kulow of WASB gave a refresher on the legislative process in Wisconsin and the state budget process highlighting the best opportunities for school board members to have an impact. □



■ Fall Regional Meetings | Sept., Oct., Nov., various locations

This fall, WASB Executive Director John Ashley and staff traveled around the state to all 15 WASB regions to celebrate school board members, discuss the direction of the WASB and meet with school leaders during the WASB Fall Regional Meetings. The meetings also gave school board members and administrators an opportunity to meet with their area WASB director and/or vote for directors.

This year, a special feature presentation was held on “The Continuous Improvement of School Boards.” Led by an experienced WASB consultant, the feature presentation discussed how to use school data effectively in board decision-making and asking the right questions to ensure that school goals are being met.

Before each Fall Regional Meeting, WASB legal staff led optional workshops on planning and conducting effective school board

meetings. These workshops covered all aspects of school board meetings from the Open Meetings Law, closed sessions, public participation, duties of school board officers, meeting minutes and more. Some of the topics discussed in these workshops are covered in this issue of *Wisconsin School News* on page 14 in the article “Coming to Order.”

Survey access codes for the Annual Board Development Tool were distributed to school districts at the Regional Meetings. The tool is an online survey to help boards identify areas of strength and areas that need improvement. For those school districts not in attendance, the survey access codes will be mailed.



The Regional Meetings also provide an opportunity to recognize those school board members who participated in the WASB Member Recognition Program. A complete list of names of school board members who reached Level 5 of the Member Recognition Program can be found on page 28. □

■ WSAA/WASB Employment and School Law Seminar | Oct. 13-14, Wisconsin Dells

On Oct. 13-14 in Wisconsin Dells, the WASB, in partnership with the Wisconsin School Attorneys Association (WSAA) held an Employment and School Law Seminar, which included 14 sessions presented by WASB staff and school law attorneys from across the state and an optional pre-seminar governance workshop.

Dan Mallin, WASB Legal and Policy Services counsel, presented a session on the challenges for schools related to the use of drones. As drone usage has increased on school campuses, many legal questions have surfaced regarding insurance coverage, student safety, and state and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) laws and regulations.

“As far as the FAA’s regulations,” Mallin stated, “an area that is very confusing for drone users and school staff is that nearly all drones need to be registered with the FAA for outdoor use, there are different types

of registration, and registration is often just a first step — it does not directly equate to authority to actually fly the drone.”

Mark Kapocius, human resources director and general counsel for the Greenfield School District, and Julie Lewis, attorney at Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, discussed school-based health care clinics and employee wellness programs. They noted that the number of employer-sponsored, on-site health clinics has tripled in less than five years. Benefits of on-site clinics include lower cost of primary care, less disruption to the work day, and, among other benefits, decreased emergency room, urgent care and specialists visits.

“Each on-site clinic varies based on the nature of the employer and workforce,” they said. “It is intended to offer the right care at the right time for the right price.”

Chrissy Hamiel, attorney with von

Briesen & Roper, s.c. and Jina Jonen, human resources director for the Oregon School District, addressed the legal issues and challenges related to the increasing presence of law enforcement officers in schools. They shared that schools with school resource officers (SROs) have five times as many arrests for disorderly conduct and that only 11 states, not including Wisconsin, have training or certification requirements for SROs. Hamiel and Jonen emphasized the importance of setting expectations and guidelines for SROs. For instance, the role of the SRO in investigating school violations versus criminal activity should be clear. How will the school and SRO conduct investigations — together or separately? Presentations and handouts from these sessions and more are available on the Event Recap page at wasb.org. □