



Leading for Our Students

With the current session of the state Legislature coming to an end, I want to thank school board members and administrators for your advocacy efforts. Because of your work, legislation such as Assembly Bill 481, which would have placed restrictions on school referenda, and Assembly Bill 469, an unfunded state mandate dictating school restroom and locker room access, were rejected. Both bills would have infringed upon local control and your ability to make decisions that best meet the needs of your students and your schools. You raised concerns and you were heard.

We want to continue to give a strong voice to our public school leaders. In the *Wisconsin School News*, we've called for school board members and administrators to step forward and offer their vision and perspective on issues and topics important to public education. In this issue, Ed Hughes, a member of the Madison Metropolitan School District Board of Education, provides a history lesson on public school funding and makes a strong case for why revenue limits are outdated. We encourage other school leaders to contact us and share their take on an important issue facing public education.

It is April and that means hundreds of new school board members join us this month in governing our state's public schools. Welcome! We look forward to working with you.

To help new school board members transition into their roles, the WASB offers New School Board Member Gatherings. These informal, evening gatherings take place in each WASB region between April 18 and 21. The meetings are free and open to new and experienced board members and superintendents. If you will have a new school board member in your district, please inform them of the gathering in your respective WASB region (see page 27).

Another WASB event geared toward both new and experienced board members will be taking place in May with a new format. Spring Academy Workshops will be offered in the evening in six locations across the state. We hope the selection of multiple locations will make it easier for members in every corner of the state to attend. The events will begin with a dinner and include presentations on the Key Work of School Boards and the legal roles and responsibilities of school board members. These events provide opportunities to meet other school leaders in your area and gain practical knowledge to help you govern your school district.

Unfortunately, April also means we will have members leaving us. For those who will no longer be serving, thank you for your public service and your diligent efforts on behalf of your students, your schools and your communities. If you are an outgoing school board member, please consider joining the WASB Alumni Program. Any former school board member who served at least six years is eligible to be an alumni member. For an annual fee of \$25, alumni members receive the *Wisconsin School News*, the weekly eConnection newsletter and can attend WASB events. If interested, contact Ingrid Frank at ifrank@wasb.org.

While serving on a school board can be challenging, it can also be incredibly rewarding. School leadership is not an easy job and I thank our school board members and district administrators for all that you do for our students. Please know that you can find support and resources at the WASB. We are here to help you. ■

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 or toll-free at 1-877-705-4422.

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