



2013 WASB Event Calendar

The 2013 WASB events are designed to boost school leader professional development, deliver the latest and more relevant information for school leaders, and provide multiple opportunities to meet with colleagues from around the state and discuss the education issues more important to you. Event descriptions include WASB Member Recognition

points. For more information on the WASB Member Recognition Program, visit wasb.org and select “Meetings and Events” and then “Member Recognition Program.”

Please note: dates and locations may be subject to change. For the latest WASB event information, visit wasb.org. ■

■ JANUARY

23–25

92nd State Education Convention Delta Center, Milwaukee

(30 Points) The 92nd State Education Convention features dozens of sessions led by school leaders and stakeholders from around the state. Each day is headlined by respected keynote speakers and features a selection of special events. The Exhibit Hall brings in hundreds of respected vendors focused on serving public education.

■ MARCH

Feb. 15 (part 1) & Mar. 7 (part 2) **Legal & Human Resources Conference**, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

(10 points) This seminar, taking place over the course of two separate days, will cover a broad range of topics, with three distinct tracks of sessions including one that will focus on the development of alternative compensation plans.

12

School Finance Seminar, Monona Terrace, Madison

(10 points) This seminar will provide school board members with the finance information needed to govern their districts effectively and efficiently. Learn about the state’s school funding system, key deadlines in the district budgeting cycle and relevant statutory changes.

13

Day at the Capitol, Madison

(10 points) Join school board members and administrators from around the state to take our 2013-15 state budget message to the Capitol. The day includes an information-packed morning along with individual meetings with state legislators in the afternoon.

■ APRIL

2

Spring Elections for School Board Members

13-15

NSBA Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (30 points)

15-19

New Board Member Gatherings, Various Locations

(5 points) Newly elected school board members are invited to these meetings where WASB staff will introduce important legal, policy, and board governance topics.

■ MAY

4

Spring Academy, Country Springs Hotel, Pewaukee

(10 points) This event provides attendees with a foundation in board governance and policy-based decision making. Contemporary strategies for effective governance and emerging education issues will also be discussed.

■ SEPTEMBER

Dates TBD

Fall Regional Meetings Begin, Various Locations

(5 points) Connect with school leaders from around your WASB region, hear a special presentation from the WASB staff, and vote for your WASB Regional Director (where applicable).

27-28

Policy and Resolutions Committee Meeting, Madison

(10 points for serving on committee) The Policy and Resolutions Committee evaluates the resolutions submitted by WASB member boards and determines which resolutions will advance to the 2014 WASB Delegate Assembly.

■ OCTOBER

Dates TBD

WSAA/WASB Employment and School Law Seminar, Madison

(10 points) Hear the latest on personnel and employment law and listen in as Wisconsin school attorneys from around the state discuss the latest issues in Wisconsin school law.

Dates TBD

Fall Regional Meetings End Various Locations

■ NOVEMBER

8

Policy and Resolutions Committee Meeting, Location TBD

The second and final Policy and Resolutions Committee meeting before the 2014 WASB Delegate Assembly.

9

Legislative Advocacy Conference, Location TBD

(10 points) The Legislative Advocacy Conference brings together state legislators, school funding experts, and school leaders as they discuss legislative topics that will affect public education. Also learn important advocacy strategies critical to advocating on behalf of your district.

New NSBA Executive Director Thomas Gentzel (left) meets with WASB Past President Tim Sivertson



New Direction for NSBA

New executive director and revamped strategic plan charts bold path for NSBA

December 2012 was a momentous month for the National School Boards Association (NSBA). On Dec. 1, Thomas J. Gentzel, former executive director of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), stepped in as the new executive director of the NSBA. The NSBA Board of Directors also adopted “a plan of action ... to restructure NSBA by engaging all school districts through our State Associations.”

Tim Sivertson, a past president of the WASB and school board president of the Elk Mound Area School District, serves on the NSBA’s Board of Directors. Sivertson, who represents the central region, was an integral member of the New NSBA Committee that drafted the plan of action.

“The main theme in the plan will be that the NSBA will work ‘with and through’ the state associations — its members,” Sivertson said.

The plan also establishes a non-profit organization that will focus on the “three-legged stool” of legislative advocacy, legal advocacy and public advocacy/communications.

“This will take time to implement,” Sivertson said. “However, a new course or direction is on the horizon. This is a time of renewal and excitement to position all of us to work tirelessly to advocate for public education.”

This past year was a busy one for the NSBA Board of Directors. While one half of the board was serving on the New NSBA Committee, the other half was working with a national search firm to replace retiring NSBA Executive Director Anne L. Bryant.

After a thorough search process, Gentzel was selected as the new NSBA executive director.

“Tom has the needed skill set to fulfill the profile that was developed and is highly thought of by his fellow executive directors across the country and has their support,” Sivertson said. “He is the right person to lead us through this time of change.”

In his previous role at PSBA, Gentzel represented and served more than 5,000 school directors, administrators, and other officials from school entities throughout Pennsylvania. He joined the PSBA staff in 1980 as a lobbyist and, five years later, was promoted to head the organization’s Office of Governmental and Member Relations — a position he held until being promoted to executive director in 2001. Before joining PSBA, he served as the county administrator for Pennsylvania’s Centre County Board of Commissioners and, later, as Assistant Executive Director of the

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

“I am honored to lead NSBA at such an important time for the organization and for public education,” said Gentzel. “I am deeply committed to community ownership of public schools, which is the essence of school board governance. We will build on a strong foundation, taking an active role in shaping education policy and ensuring a quality education for all children in America.”

NSBA’s executive director reports directly to the organization’s board of directors and is responsible for guiding the development and implementation of the strategic plan, programs, policies, and practices of the association. The executive director is responsible for the management and development of nearly 100 employees and an annual budget of more than \$20 million. ■



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500 Lake Cook Road, Suite 350 Deerfield, IL 60015

TEL (847) 580-4246

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