

Building School Leaders

The Summer Leadership Institute, hosted by the WASB on July 18 in Green Lake, featured a variety of sessions on important topics aimed at giving school board members the information and tools they need to lead their districts.

Sessions, delivered by WASB staff, school leaders from around the state, and other education experts, addressed issues related to student achievement, governance, communications, and, among others, school funding.

The event started with a keynote address by Dr. Jerlando F.L. Jackson, director and chief research scientist at Wisconsin's Equity and Inclusion Laboratory (WeiLAB) at UW-Madison. Dr. Jackson shared his research on the challenges facing black males in our educational systems and his suggestions for policy changes.

School board members from the Verona Area School District presented their board's work in developing policies and practices that promote the equity of access and opportunity for students. The district focused on getting more underrepresented students into the high school's Advanced Placement (AP) classes. Research shows that students who take AP classes, regardless of prior academic performance or other background factors, are more likely to succeed in college. Through retention and support structures, the district has been able to close racial/economic gaps in AP classes by 76 percent.

The Kettle Moraine School District shared its communication and engagement strategies for passing school referendums. For a successful referendum, many aspects of a school district's leadership need to work together towards the same goal of developing trust among the community. Clear, consistent and transparent communication goes a long ways in developing trust. School leaders also said it is crucial to make community involvement a part of the referendum planning process. In Kettle Moraine, the school district held community workshops in spring 2012 and 2013, conducted a community-wide survey in the fall of 2013, and then held the referendum in spring 2014.

The Brown Deer School District shared its efforts to close the achievement gap. The district instituted support and initiatives at each grade level including reaching out to early child care providers to ensure that they were educating students and setting them up to succeed once they began school. The district also provides after-school help where students participate two to five days a week to work on homework or get extra help from a teacher. In addition, staff development has been crucial in closing the district's achievement gap. Through teacher-led professional development, the district has developed a district-wide training that helps teachers identify strategies and efforts to help students.

Among other sessions, WASB Consultants Cheryl Stinski and Al



Brown presented on the recently updated Key Work of School Boards, a framework for school leaders looking to develop the leadership skills they need to deal with today's educational and political challenges. Among other topics, Stinski and Brown discussed vision and its importance and role in today's school boards. As the Key Work states, "Vision is not about what we are, but what we want to be ... A positive vision is future-focused and seeks to shape events rather than simply let them happen." ■

For presentations from all of the sessions at the Summer Leadership Institute, visit wasb.org. Select "Meetings and Events" and then "Event Recaps."

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A positive vision is future-focused and seeks to shape events
rather than simply let them happen. — "Key Work of School Boards"



2015 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 focuses on community advocacy efforts and how school leaders can foster community advocates for public education. If school boards are going to be successful in advocating for state policy changes that improve public education, they need to enhance their community leadership role and advocacy efforts at the local level. This feature presentation will highlight ways school boards can be more successful in influencing

their communities’ support for public education.

In addition to the feature presentation, 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 director of the WASB. □

- Region 1** | Oct. 6 – Trego*
- Region 2** | Oct. 7 – Minocqua
- Region 3** | Sept. 29 – Green Bay
- Region 4** | Oct. 14 – Eau Claire*
- Region 5** | Oct. 13 – Rothschild
- Region 6** | Oct. 21 – Fountain City
- Region 7** | Oct. 1 – Neenah
- Region 8** | Sept. 30 – Kiel
- Region 9** | Oct. 22 – Fennimore*
- Region 10** | Oct. 27 – Baraboo*
- Region 11** | Oct. 20 – Pewaukee*
- Region 12** | Sept. 24 – DeForest or Oct. 8 – Evansville
- Region 13** | Oct. 28 – Elkhorn*
- Region 14** | TBD – Milwaukee
- Region 15** | Oct. 20 – Pewaukee

*Denotes region with elections for WASB Board of Directors.

PRE-REGIONAL MEETING WORKSHOP

School Board Policy Implications from the 2015-17 State Budget

The 2015-17 state budget proposed substantial changes to state laws impacting Wisconsin public school districts — from funding, student assessments and district report cards to open enrollment and much more. As a result, school boards throughout the state will need to revisit and reconsider a number of their policies. At this workshop, learn more about the specifics of the major statutory changes and implications on local district policies. Make sure your district doesn’t fall behind in making the appropriate and necessary changes.

Workshops will be held immediately prior to the Regional Meetings from 4-6 pm at the same facility. Members are welcome to attend workshops in any region. *Cost is \$85. Register at wasb.org. Regional Meeting registration is not required.* □

Are You Receiving WASB Emails?

As your member association, the WASB wants to ensure that 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 by calling toll-free 1-877-705-4422 and provide us with your current, preferred email address(es). (You may need to whitelist “robust.wasb.org” if your WASB emails are being blocked. Contact the WASB or district IT for assistance.)

The WASB is committed to working with member school boards to strengthen local governance and advocacy of Wisconsin public schools. Make sure you are receiving WASB emails to benefit from the full range of services. □