

School Finance, Accountability, and Governance

2014 Summer Leadership Institute gives school board members the tools to lead their districts

On Aug. 2, school board members and administrators met in Madison for an intense day of professional development. The 2014 Summer Leadership Institute featured three tracks aimed at giving school board members the knowledge and tools they need to lead their districts. The tracks covered sessions on school finance, accountability, and school governance.

The school finance track included in-depth sessions on the school district budget cycle and a special two-hour session aimed at helping school leaders understand the state's complex school funding system. David Carlson, WASB consultant, and Peter Ross, district administrator of the Seymour Community School District, highlighted the steep cuts in state funding for public education, noting that 15 states are providing less funding to local school districts than they provided a year ago despite the fact that most states are experiencing modest increases in tax revenue.

Educator effectiveness, the



Common Core State Standards, and new state assessments were hot topics discussed in depth as part of the accountability track by a team from the Department of Public Instruction. Among other issues, presenters made it clear that the standards are not a curriculum. Rather, the standards are statements about what students should know and be able to do.

“The Common Core provide more guidance and support at each grade level while still maintaining the local control so important to

districts throughout the state,” said Emilie Amundson, DPI director of the Common Core State Standards Implementation Team.

The governance track featured a series of sessions from WASB Consultants Louis Birchbauer, David Carlson, and Dennis Richards on leadership, effective school board practices, communication, trust building, and using data effectively. ■

To view presentations from this event, visit wasb.org. Select “Meetings & Events” and then “Event Recaps.”

Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week is Oct. 5-11

In recognition of the thousands of school board members throughout the state, the WASB has set Oct. 5-11, 2014, as Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week. This week is designed to recognize the contributions made by Wisconsin's school board members and school boards who are charged with governing public education under state law. The WASB has prepared a kit, which includes a sample press prelease, activities, and more to help school districts recognize their school boards. Find the kit at wasb.org. Select “Communications” and then “Wisconsin School Board Appreciation Week.”

CHRIS KULOW Joins WASB Government Relations Staff

The WASB is excited to announce that Chris Kulow has joined the WASB staff as a government relations specialist. Chris comes to the WASB from the office of state Rep. Steve Kestell (R-Elkhart Lake). Chris has worked for Rep. Kestell the past 13 years, including serving as the Clerk of the Assembly Education Committee for the last four years. During that time Chris has been immersed in the major issues affecting public education. Chris has worked directly with the legislators and staff most involved in education

issues. Working for Rep. Kestell, Chris also gained experience staffing the Joint Finance Committee during the state budget process.

Chris is a 1999 graduate of the UW-Madison with a bachelor of science in political science. In January 2014, he earned a certificate in public affairs from the UW-Madison's La Follette School of Public Affairs. ■



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's feature presentation will highlight two integrated tools — The Key Work of School Boards, and the Annual Board Development Tool, an evaluation survey created by the WASB and School Perceptions, for school boards to use in enhancing their board development and creating excellence in public education.

These board development tools can help ensure that your board is governing as effectively as possible. Excellence in the classroom begins with excellence in the boardroom.

Regional Meetings will begin at 6 pm with registration and networking. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

For more information, visit wasb.org.

- Region 1** | Oct. 21 – Washburn
- Region 1** | Oct. 22 – Rice Lake
- Region 2** | Oct. 23 – Minocqua
- Region 3** | Oct. 7 – Green Bay*
- Region 4** | Oct. 1 – Eau Claire
- Region 5** | Sept. 30 – Rothschild
- Region 6** | Sept. 23 – Viroqua*
- Region 7** | Oct. 9 – Neenah*
- Region 8** | Oct. 8 – Kiel*
- Region 9** | Oct. 14 – Fennimore
- Region 10** | Oct. 29 – Baraboo
- Region 11** | Sept. 18 – Pewaukee
- Region 12** | Oct. 28 – Madison*
- Region 13** | Sept. 17 – Elkhorn
- Region 14** | TBD – Milwaukee*
- Region 15** | Sept. 18 – Pewaukee

**Denotes region with elections for WASB Board of Directors.*



Pre-Regional Meeting Workshops

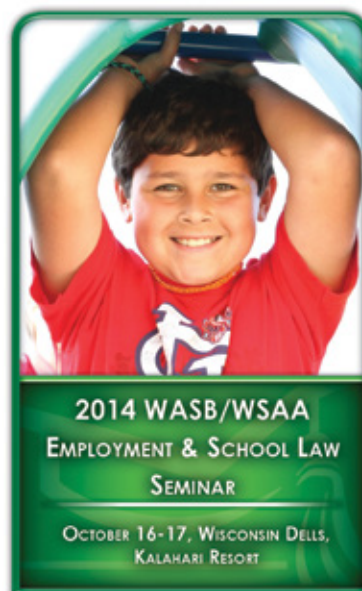
Workshops will be held immediately prior to the Regional Meetings from 4-6 pm. The workshops will be in the same facility as the Regional Meeting. Registration is separate. The cost is \$85 per person. Members are welcome to attend workshops in multiple regions.

The Legal Roles and Responsibilities of School Boards.

- Sept. 17** | Elkhorn, Region 13
- Sept. 30** | Rothschild, Region 5
- Oct. 7** | Green Bay, Region 3
- Oct. 8** | Kiel, Region 8
- Oct. 14** | Fennimore, Region 9
- Oct. 21** | Washburn, Region 1
- Oct. 28** | Madison, Region 12

The Financial Roles and Responsibilities of School Boards.

- Sept. 18** | Pewaukee, Regions 11 & 15
- Sept. 23** | Viroqua, Region 6
- Oct. 1** | Eau Claire, Region 4
- Oct. 9** | Neenah, Region 7
- Oct. 22** | Rice Lake, Region 1
- Oct. 23** | Minocqua, Region 2
- Oct. 29** | Baraboo, Region 10



Employment & School Law Seminar

The 2014 Employment & School Law Seminar, held in partnership with the Wisconsin School Attorneys Association, will take place **Oct. 16-17** in Wisconsin Dells.

Sessions will provide attendees with the latest information on a variety of topics including: employee handbooks, school policy, immigration and education, the Affordable Care Act, and much more. For more information or to register, visit wasb.org.