



Moving Forward

Now that the dust has settled from last month's elections, I want to formally welcome our new school board members. I, along with other WASB staff and our directors, had the opportunity to meet many of you at our New Board Member Gatherings in April. If you're a new board member and weren't able to attend, I encourage you to learn more about your new role and how the WASB can support you.

To get started, visit our webpage "Basic Legal and Governance Resources for School Board Members" under the "Services & Resources" section at WASB.org. You'll find a host of resources along with recorded webcasts.

With the April election behind us, it's time for new and experienced school board members to continue making progress. Budgeting for the next school year is underway, graduation day is just around the corner, and annual school board meetings are coming up.

As school leaders, you know that leading a public school district comes with challenges. We must remain focused on continuous improvement. Our upcoming events are geared towards helping our school leaders move their districts forward. The Spring Workshops, a special School Safety Seminar and the Summer Leadership Institute will offer

specialized training for school board members.

Provided in partnership with the state's CESAs, the Spring Workshops will consist of 12 evening workshops held throughout the state May 8-17. The workshops will take a deeper dive into the legal roles and responsibilities of board members. We encourage new board members to attend these to learn more about the laws that directly impact board service. The workshops will serve as a good refresher for experienced board members as well.

In July, the WASB will be hosting a special School Safety Seminar in conjunction with the Summer Leadership Institute in Green Bay. The first day, Friday, July 13, will focus on school safety and feature sessions on school emergency plans, security audits, crisis communication, early brain and child development, mental health issues, and more. The second day, Saturday, July 14, will be the traditional WASB Summer Leadership Institute with two tracks of programming for new and experienced members. The day will include presentations on school finance, school law, governance through policymaking, superintendent evaluations, strategic planning, and more. On Friday evening, the WASB will be hosting a dinner featuring an entertaining keynote by Jim Draeger of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Members can register for either event or both events at a discounted rate. Learn more at WASB.org.

As school leaders, we also must remain focused on advocacy. Our experienced school board members have provided especially strong voices for public education in recent legislative sessions. Their advocacy efforts have helped us get positive results for public education. I want to encourage new school board members to stay up to speed and be engaged on the latest education-related bills and debates taking place in the state Capitol. Our government relations team keeps school board members informed with its Legislative Update blog at wasblegupdate.wasb.org. You can also find updates through our social media accounts. Connect with us on Twitter (find us @WASBWI) and Facebook (search for "WI School Boards") to get the latest updates.

I'm excited to have so many passionate people join our ranks as school leaders. Serving on a school board is challenging, but 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. As you move forward, please remember that you can find support and resources at the WASB. We are here for you. ■

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