

# School Safety and Leadership

## *School Safety Seminar and Summer Leadership Recap tackles important issues for school leaders*

The WASB held a joint School Safety Seminar and Summer Leadership Institute, July 13-14 in Green Bay.

The School Safety Seminar took place July 13 and started with an inspiring keynote from Dr. Dipesh Navsaria, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Navsaria talked about early child development and how toxic stress and early adversity can impact a child's ability to learn and develop. In his work, Navsaria has emphasized the important role reading and literacy plays in early childhood development.

"Without developing adequate reading fluency, the promise of education's benefits becomes progressively more remote as time passes, even with significant efforts at remediation," Navsaria wrote in a column for *The Capital Times*. "The outcome is an adult with limited skills in the workforce, and a high likelihood of dependency as a result."

John Stangler, director of buildings and grounds for the Pewaukee School District presented a compelling session on digital threats.

"If you don't educate your kids on proper social media usage, they are out on a digital playground while no one is on recess duty," Stangler said.

In another session, Kristen Devitt, the newly appointed director of the Office of School Safety in the Wisconsin Department of Justice, discussed the state school safety grants, which is awarding \$100 million to Wisconsin school districts to help improve school safety. Devitt was joined by Glenn Rehberg, the interim director of the Office of School Safety. They discussed application requirements and fielded questions. School leaders can contact Rehberg with follow-up questions at rehbergga@doj.state.wi.us or 608-266-7783.

The Summer Leadership Institute (July 14) covered a wide variety of leadership topics, including Wisconsin school board laws, superintendent evaluation, board governance and policymaking, school finance, strategic planning and more.

Guy Leavitt, director of the WASB's Organizational Consulting Services, presented the session on evaluating the superintendent. Among

other points, Leavitt emphasized the importance of viewing superintendent evaluations as a continuous improvement conversation between the superintendent and the board.

"Superintendent evaluation is about the conversation and dialogue that occurs during the process," Leavitt said. "It is part of relationship building."

In another session, Leavitt and Barry Forbes, associate executive director and staff counsel for the WASB, covered school board governance and policymaking. Forbes noted that school boards must understand what the law requires and what choices must be made locally.

"Two recent court decisions changed the rules governing public access to school facilities, public comments at board meetings and board-created advisory groups and committees," Forbes said. "School boards should review and update relevant policies in light of those decisions."

WASB members can view presentation slides from these sessions on the WASB website [WASB.org](http://WASB.org). Select "Trainings & Events" and then "Event Recaps" (log-in required). □

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

The WASB hosts a series of webinars throughout the year. Here is a look at the upcoming webinars from the WASB.

#### ■ SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDA – LEGAL & POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

**Aug. 8, 12 – 1 pm** | *Presenter: Barry Forbes, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel*

More and more school districts are going to referenda for funding and facilities. This interactive webinar will cover the legal and policy considerations that you should consider before going to referenda. The webinar will provide detailed analysis of the different types of referenda, the procedure and timing of referenda, the use of district funds and resources during a referendum, the roles of the

board, individual board members and staff during a referendum, and how districts, staff, and boards may interact with third party groups, e.g., "vote yes," "vote no," etc.

#### ■ PUPIL EXPULSION

**Sept. 12, 1:30 – 2:30 pm** | *Presenter: Bob Butler, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel*

This webinar presentation covers state and federal laws relating to the pupil expulsions. The presentation will provide a roadmap for considering the expulsion of pupils and to help avoid common pitfalls when doing so. The presentation will focus on procedures for

(continued on next page)

## WASB Governance Workshops

**In August, the WASB is hosting a series of WASB Governance Workshops.**

The workshops will take place at CESA offices at locations across the state. The events begin with dinner at 6 pm and the workshop program 6:30-9 pm.

### FUNDAMENTALS OF EFFECTIVE BOARDS

**August 7** — CESA 11, Turtle Lake

**August 15** — CESA 3, Fennimore

*Al Brown / Rachel Schultz, WASB Consultants*

School boards and administrators are most effective when there is a culture of active communication, collegial relationships and trust. How does this translate into board operations and interactions? In this workshop, school board members will learn from each other and from the research on how to turn the philosophy of “effective school board” into actual leadership actions. School boards that are effective contribute to strengthening and improving teaching and learning outcomes.

### THE POWER OF THE PACT

**August 8** — CESA 2, Whitewater

**August 14** — CESA 9, Tomahawk

*Louise Blankenheim, WASB Consultant*

Effective school board members and superintendents

must work together as a team to make the difficult decisions and establish standards of leadership performance. Practicing teamwork, establishing team protocols, and developing an accountability process are key to supporting a strong partnership between the school board and superintendent. Designed for school board members and superintendents, this workshop will engage participants in developing their individual team “power pact” by learning about one another, setting a vision, establishing common goals, and committing to adhering to by-laws and operating principles identified by the team. ■



## Recognize Your Business Partners

**The WASB is accepting nominations** for the WASB Business Honor Roll. Recognize businesses or organizations that have supported your schools in the past year. Member school boards can nominate up to five local businesses, including newspapers or other media that have been helpful to your school district over the past year.

Nominated businesses will be posted on the WASB website, districts will be provided a press release and certificate to present to your partner businesses. To nominate a business, visit [WASB.org](http://WASB.org). Select “Services & Resources” “Communication Services” and then “Business Honor Roll.” **Nominations close August 17, 2018.**

## WEBINARS (CONTINUED)

administrators as well as for boards that conduct their own expulsion hearings.

### ADMINISTRATOR CONTACTS

**Oct. 10, 12 – 1 pm** | *Presenter: Ben Richter, Staff Counsel*

This presentation covers all aspects of administrator contracts, including the drafting of contracts, contract terms, application of section 118.24 Wis. Stat. to administrator nonrenewals and more. State and federal court decisions on administrator contracts, including the *Klaus v. Eau Claire School District* case will be covered.

**Please note:** These and all previous webinars are recorded and available on demand. WASB members can purchase any webinar and watch when their schedule allows. Upcoming live and pre-recorded webinars are listed on the WASB Webinars page at [WASB.org](http://WASB.org). In addition, links to past webinars are available in the Policy Resources Guide.

### ELECTION NOTICES & PROCEDURES

**Nov. 7, 12 – 1 pm** | *Presenter: Dan Mallin, Legal and Policy Services Counsel*

Wisconsin school districts must comply with numerous statutory obligations related to elections, and this presentation will cover key deadlines, required notices, and post-election processes. This webinar will be of particular interest to school district clerks and to superintendents’ administrative assistants (who often assist with election duties).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# Regional Meetings & Workshops

*New date for Region 15 meeting!*

Join us as at your Regional Meeting this fall to recognize school board members, hold elections for the WASB board of directors, discuss activities of the WASB and more.

The meetings will include an in-depth legislative update from WASB Government Relations staff. The meetings also give us an opportunity to recognize school board members who have reached a new level in the WASB Board Development 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 future activities and direction of the WASB.

Please note, the date for the Regions 11 and 15 Meeting is now Oct. 25 in Pewaukee to allow for an election in Region 15 due to an unexpected vacancy on the WASB board of directors. □

- Region 1** | Oct. 3 - Trego\*
- Region 2** | Oct. 4 - Minocqua
- Region 3** | Oct. 16 - Green Bay
- Region 4** | Sept. 27 - Eau Claire\*
- Region 5** | Sept. 25 - Rothschild
- Region 6** | Sept. 26 - Whitehall
- Region 7** | Oct. 17 - Neenah
- Region 8** | Oct. 18 - Kiel
- Region 9** | Oct. 10 - Fennimore\*
- Region 10** | Oct. 9 - Wis. Dells\*
- Region 11** | Oct. 25 - Pewaukee
- Region 12** | Oct. 23 - Monona
- Region 13** | Oct. 24 - Elkhorn\*
- Region 14** | TBD - Milwaukee
- Region 15** | Oct. 25 - Pewaukee\*

\* Denotes regions with elections for WASB Board of Directors



## 2018 FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

**SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND ADVANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION**



**DATES: SEPT. & OCT. – VARIES PER LOCATION**  
**LOCATIONS DETERMINED BY REGION**

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## PRE-REGIONAL MEETING WORKSHOP

### Coming to Order: How to Plan and Conduct Effective School Board Meetings

All school boards conduct their business in similar meetings. However, the effectiveness of their meetings can vary widely. How a board sets its agendas and plans for and conducts its meetings can impact the board's success in moving the needle on student achievement. In this workshop, a WASB attorney will review the legal requirements for meetings and board member roles as well as how to

structure meetings to achieve different purposes, conduct an effective board meeting, record meetings appropriately, and accommodate public participation.

**Workshops will be held immediately prior** to the Regional Meetings (above) from 4:30-6 pm at the same facility. Members are welcome to attend workshops in any region. Regional Meeting registration is not required. Registration begins at 4 pm, the workshop starts at 4:30 pm. □