Greetings,

As a new school year commences once again we anxiously await the next move in the ongoing McCleary debate. It’s difficult not to be frustrated with the apparent resistance by our legislators to fulfill the State’s Constitutional mandate to “make ample (considerably more than adequate) provision for the education of all children within its borders” as their paramount duty. It’s not like that is a bad thing.

Since the inception of the lawsuit there have been large cuts to an already underfunded educational system. I can only imagine what school districts might be facing today had it not been for the McCleary ruling.

It appears to me that much time and effort has been spent to minimally (or less) comply with the Supreme Court’s ruling. If these efforts could be refocused on the challenge at hand – how can we amply fund schools so that every student in Washington has equal access to a quality education – I’m confident a solution can be found.

I have great respect for our State’s elected officials and call on them now to accept their responsibility and willingly work together to accomplish this charge. The future of our children is at stake.

--Gary Coe, NEWESD 101
2015-16 AESD President

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

ESD Superintendents and Board members work to build the AESD Network

Pictured at the April AESD Executive Board meeting are (l-r): Dr. Richard Graham, ESD 112 Board; Superintendent Tim Merlino, ESD 112; Superintendent Steve Myers, ESD 105; Dr. Dana Anderson, ESD 113 Superintendent, and Rick Anthony, ESD 113 Board.
Reality Gap… or the Twilight Zone?

One of the best parts of my job are the opportunities I have to visit schools, hear presentations of data-driven school improvement processes for accreditation, and help administrators develop action research on student learning projects in order to earn their Professional Certificate. Recently I had the opportunity to hear fifty school improvement/accreditation presentations and another dozen principals share their action research projects to close achievement gaps.

After four long intense days of these presentations, as I reflected on what had been presented, I wondered how it is possible that the chasm is so great between what is reported about public schools compared to reality. And then, in my mind the Twilight Zone theme song played (really!).

Lately I have tuned out much of the:
- media hype about failing schools;
- charter school proponents advocating their desires as a way to escape failing schools;
- legislators berating regarding school and district efforts to implement underfunded initiatives/mandates;
- State Board of Education (SBE) and Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) initiatives to save children from misguided educators through new procedures, rules, and labels – with little understanding of what schools and districts face in the current decade; and,
- many other distractors too numerous to name.

At my age I am not often left speechless; however, listening to some 60+ presentations over four intense days left me awestruck. The dedication of school instructional leaders, administrators and teachers is so evident in the work undertaken in school after school. I am now angry about misrepresentations made about public schools and the dedicated staff working within them. I apologize to each and every one of you reading this that, for a while, I have simply tuned out the negative noise. I am now recommitted to respond to each and every misrepresentation with specific examples of the good work, resulting in increased student learning, that occurs through public schools in the NWESD region.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of the students you serve! The NWESD, and I, will continue to provide the best support possible . . . and to correct misrepresentations as they are propagated. Together We Can accomplish so very much more...

~Dr. Jerry Jenkins, Superintendent
NWESD 189

The public Grand Opening and ribbon cutting for the ESD 112 Hough New Early Learning Center (at former historic Hough Pool) took place August 28 at the Center, administered by Educational Service District 112.
New Board Member at NEWESD101

NEWESD 101 is pleased to announce the appointment of Emmett Arndt to its Board of Directors. Arndt, a long-time administrator in Spokane area schools, succeeds veteran board member Robert Bauer, who retired.

Arndt, a resident of Spokane, is well known in local education circles following 31 years of service with Inland Northwest schools.

His career included 20 years with Spokane Public Schools, 1987-2007, as a high school assistant principal (nine years at North Central and Shadle Park), five years as principal of Shadle Park and six years as a district executive director.

Prior to Spokane, he served 11 years with the nearby Coeur d’Alene (Idaho) School District as a teacher, coach and assistant principal at the junior high and high school levels. The Spokane native holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Washington and is a former U.S. Army officer.

Bauer, a resident of Colton, served 12 years on the board in two separate stints dating to 2002. Thank you, Robert. Welcome, Emmett.

--Steve Witter, NEWESD 101
Executive Director/Communications

ESD 105 Head Start: ESD 105 has re-entered the Head Start business after being awarded a five-year grant of more than $38 million in July from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services to deliver the federal early learning program. The agency’s Head Start service area includes locations in the Yakima area as well as sites to the north in ESD 171.

The selection makes ESD 105 the only ESD in the state that is offering Migrant and Seasonal Head Start, which will be conducted each April through October with slots for 120 children in the Yakima area, 80 at the Bridgeport Early Learning Center, and 64 in the East Wenatchee Early Learning Center.

ESD 105 also joins three other ESDs – 113, 114, and 121 – in providing year-round Head Start (for children age 5 and under) and Early Head Start (involving home-based visiting for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers up to 2 years old). There will be slots for 269 children in the Yakima Head Start locations and slots for 90 people in the Yakima Early Head Start program.

ESD 105 briefly oversaw Head Start in south central Washington beginning in 1979, before transferring the program more than 30 years ago to a local organization that was formed called Enterprise for Progress in the Community (also known as EPIC). ESD 105 has now selected EPIC to serve as its subcontractor to directly provide Head Start services in the Yakima, East Wenatchee, and Bridgeport areas. The Yakima-based ESD will also be involving the Wenatchee-based ESD 171 in the Head Start services being provided in East Wenatchee and Bridgeport.

Cynthia Juarez, the executive director for Early Learning at ESD 105, said: “The ESD will now be able to support parents, communities, and school districts in more comprehensive alignment between preschool and 3rd grade so preschool gains are sustained over time. We’re including school readiness coaches, which is a unique feature to our Head Start model. These coaches will collaborate with local kindergarten teachers and will coach preschool teachers on best practices for instructional strategies, child assessment, and school readiness outcomes.”

--David Goebner, ESD 105
Public Information Officer

New Early Learning Center opens at former historic Hough Pool

This fall, a new state-of-the-art early learning center in the Hough neighborhood in Vancouver opened its doors to approximately 140 children ages three to five enrolled in the state’s Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP).

The public Grand Opening and ribbon cutting took place August 28 at the Hough Early Learning Center, administered by Educational Service District 112.

“This is such a significant time in history for young children and families in Clark County and for ESD 112’s growing early learning programs,” said ESD 112 Superintendent Tim Merlino. “We are so proud to be part of the Hough Foundation’s dream of creating a child-centered facility to serve our community’s youngest learners,” he added.

The project began last fall when ESD 112 first received the news of a $1.1 million ECEAP grant from the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to serve an additional 108 preschool children in Clark County. (The agency has since funded additional ECEAP slots to ESD 112 to provide learning programs for low income children in Southwest Washington.)

“I was so pleased to be a part of the opening ceremony for the Hough Early Learning Center,” said Heather Moss, Deputy Director of Washington State Department of Early Learning. “I got to see in person the level of commitment and passion that has gone into creating this new early learning facility, and I am so impressed with the high-quality details and personal neighborhood touches. DEL is only as successful as the community partners who actually put into action the programs and policies we manage from Olympia. DEL is pleased to partner with the many Vancouver community organizations that made this new center possible.”

Vancouver Public Schools will provide hot meals for ECEAP children and share playground space at Hough Elementary. The Hough Foundation will continue to partner with ESD 112 to provide music in the classroom, championed by Hough Foundation Founder Paul Christensen.

ESD 112 purchased the property from the Hough Foundation in July, 2014 for $150,000, and invested another $1.5 million in the renovation project. “We did as much as possible to preserve what was unique to the building,” said Merlino. The exposed wooden beams that were part of the pool were retained and water-themed tiles made years ago by Hough Elementary students grace the entryway.

Even with the opening of the new center, Clark County remains underserved when it comes to early learning. There are more than 2,100 local eligible children going unserved. “We will continue to work hard to secure more funding and resources for early learning in our region,” Merlino promised.

--Jodi Thomas, ESD 112
Public Information Coordinator
Reducing “Pressure” for School Bus Drivers
Worker’s Compensation Trust Grant Helps Elma School District Proactively Keep Bus Drivers from Injury

Imagine setting and releasing your emergency brake 31,000 times in nine months and that effort requiring 15-28 lbs of pressure each time.

That’s the reality for many school bus drivers since a 2007 state law requiring them to use the emergency brake each time they stopped. The unintended consequences have been excessive strain to drivers’ wrists, forearms and shoulders.

Bus drivers in the Elma School District (ESD) are much more fortunate, where their emergency brake systems have been retrofitted with a new toggle brake system. The new system requires 0 lbs. of exerted force; it is installed in addition to the existing brake system.

The school district and Capitol Region ESD 113 Workers’ Compensation Trust had noticed an alarming surge in the number of driver hand and wrist injuries. Tom Boling, Elma’s director of maintenance and transportation, and Shop Foreman Dave Howard, pursued the new system and a $4,000 Safety Grant from ESD 113 Workers’ Compensation Trust to jumpstart the transition to the toggle system.

The benefits and satisfaction of the new braking system were so high, the district decided to fully fund toggles in all the buses in their district, proactively helping their bus drivers avoid injury. For more information on the Elma School District’s safety project and grant, contact Robert Pierce, Capitol Region ESD 113’s manager of safety and health services, at 360.464.6881 or rpierce@esd113.org. For more details on the brake button system, visit www.safetybrake.com.

~Pamela (Merrill) White
Outlook Writing & Design

ESD 113

Olympic Peninsulas’ scientists, educators, and business leaders. The OESD has been awarded a grant in the amount of $600,000 (2015-2018) through The Mathematics and Science Partnership Program (MSP), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which supports the improvement of mathematics and science instruction and learning through partnerships between school districts, institutions of higher learning, ESDs and educational organizations.

More STEM information can be found on our website at www.oesd114.org. Featured links on the site highlighting the OESD’s work with STEM: a video message from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, a video message from U.S. Senator Patty Murray, and a University of Washington article about the work of UW professors on the OSPP project.

~Tina Schulz, ESD 114
Executive Assistant

ESD 123

ESD 123 Expands Facility to Meet Community Need

As a result of rapid expansion in the Early Learning Department and an ever-increasing demand for professional development, ESD 123 is getting ready to break ground on a 10,200 sq. foot Professional Development Center expansion in January 2016. Scheduled for completion in December 2016, this new facility will provide a state-of-the-art, technologically-advanced learning environment for teaching professionals throughout the community who are looking for meaningful opportunities to further their education.

What began as an influx of new staff due to program and direct service growth throughout the organization, quickly led to board engagement in discussion around facility expansion and the needs of the organization within the next five to 10 years. A clear need was recognized, not only for additional learning space, but also to provide a resource that would serve the educational community to acquire the training and expertise needed to improve their educational practice. It was determined that a state-of-the-art facility with the ability to impact and enhance the learning resources for students throughout our region was of paramount importance in this expansion.

Darcy Weisner, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support at ESD 123, is serving as project-lead for the expansion.

“The Superintendent and Board of Directors’ goal in this expansion is to help our school districts and children realize their dreams and aspirations,” Weisner states. “We believe this new facility will allow us to do that by providing state-of-the-art professional development spaces where people can create and innovate.”

Designed to create a flexible environment to inspire and support interdisciplinary learning and collaboration, this first-class expansion will host additional space for offices and professional development. Additionally, in an effort to best service our 23 school districts and their capacity needs, a unique feature of the expansion is a business center and a “Classroom for the Future.” The Classroom for the Future includes a lab that will provide creative space for people to think outside the box, and a teaching environment with the latest technology, tools, and materials.

For more information about the ESD 123 expansion project, contact Darcy Weisner at dweisner@esd123.org.

~Molly Curtiss, ESD 123
Communications & Graphics Coordinator

PSESD hosted Smarter Balanced Media Round Table with OSPi and ReadyWA

On August 12, the Puget Sound Educational Service District, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Ready Washington hosted a media briefing to preview the state score release, which includes the Smarter Balanced Assessment results. The briefing, at the Puget Sound Skills Center in Burien, outlined what will be contained in the public release and how it will differ from previous years.

The coalition convened a panel of education experts from the state, districts and schools. Members of the panel offered a presentation and answered questions from media. The goal of the media briefing was to help families and communities better understand what the new assessments are measuring and how they will be used to gauge college and career readiness.

ECET2 Puget Sound Created Forum for More than 100 Regional Teachers

Over 100 Puget Sound area educators attended the second regional Elevating and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching - Puget Sound (ECET2PS) convening in August.

The ECET2 network was created to provide a forum for exceptional teachers to learn from one another and celebrate the teaching profession. At their core, ECET2

~Tina Schulz, ESD 114
Executive Assistant

ESD 114

STEM is “Happening” at OESD 114

2015 marks amazing growth and opportunities in the realm of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for our region’s teachers and students. The Olympic STEM Pathways Partnership (OSPP) launched with energy and ingenuity at a packed-house event hosted by the Galaxy Theater in Gig Harbor on June 22, 2015. Attendees included K-12 and College educators, business leaders, and representatives from local government and the military, working to introduce and link students, teachers, and the community to the vast array of STEM resources in our region.

Momentum continues to build with collaborative gatherings of local Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas’ scientists, educators, and business leaders. The OESD has been awarded a grant in the amount of $600,000 (2015-2018) through The Mathematics and Science Partnership Program (MSP), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which supports the improvement of mathematics and science instruction and learning through partnerships between school districts, institutions of higher learning, ESDs and educational organizations.

More STEM information can be found on our website at www.oesd114.org. Featured links on the site highlighting the OESD’s work with STEM: a video message from U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, a video message from U.S. Senator Patty Murray, and a University of Washington article about the work of UW professors on the OSPP project.

~Tina Schulz, ESD 114
Executive Assistant
North Central ESD Adds New Board Member

Marcia Henkle from East Wenatchee has been appointed to fill the vacancy left on the Board of the North Central Educational Service District. Ms. Henkle replaces Karl Lambert, who recently moved out of the region he has represented. Marcia, who will represent Eastmont School District and the southern portion of the Wenatchee School District, said, “I am very honored and excited to be appointed as the representative for Eastmont and the southern portion of Wenatchee School District on the NCESD Board. This is an opportunity for me to continue my life-long passion of supporting education and our communities.”

Marcia is currently the regional director of the Washington State Employment Security Department, which oversees the administration of Employment Security Departments’ employment and training programs in WorkSource offices located in the Central Region of the State. These offices encompass Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Adams, Yakima, Kittitas, Klickitat and Skamania Counties.

Marcia was raised in Douglas County on a wheat ranch. After graduating from Coulee City High School and Washington State University, she began a lifelong career in the education field. She taught high school and community college for several years in the Seattle area before moving back to eastern Washington where she operated Trend College in East Wenatchee. Before her employment at the Washington State Employment Security Department, Marcia served as Wenatchee Valley College instructor, administrator, and Dean of Workforce Education.

North Central ESD Superintendent Rich McBride commented, “We couldn't be more pleased to add a person of Marcia's caliber to our ESD Board. She is a respected member of the community and adds a valued perspective with her educational background. She will be a quality addition to an already exceptional board and organization!”

North Central ESD Announces NASA/University of Washington Grant

North Central ESD has been awarded $325,000 as part of the Northwest Earth and Space Pipeline (NESSP) “Ignite, Innovate, Inspire: Launching NASA’s Next Generation” grant through NASA and the University of Washington. This award will provide middle and high school science teachers with professional learning around the use of NASA data and materials in the implementation of Washington State Science Learning Standards (Next Generation Science Standards) in their classrooms. Teacher stipends for time, development of resources, and lesson planning will be provided. The project begins August 2016.

Mechelle LaLanne, NCESD Regional Science Specialist, is grant writer and project manager.

~Eldene Wall, NCESD Public Relations Specialist

The State of Children and Families

Northwest ESD 189 recently held the annual State of Children and Families early learning brunch. This event convenes diverse stakeholders around the NWESD region to share the story of children and families in the region and increase the investment in early learning. This year’s brunch was attended by nearly 150 professionals and advocates representing a broad spectrum of school districts, elected officials, family service providers, government agencies, and community organizations.

Author and educational psychologist David C. Berliner headlined the event with an impactful keynote about Inequity, Poverty & Widening Education Gap. The data was clear that poverty and test scores can be closely aligned, and his message underscored the importance of equitable education for all students, as well as the critical need to understand external stress factors affecting our students.

Another key piece of this event was the release of the third annual State of Children and Families report. The leadership for Northwest Early Learning, an early childhood system planning initiative representing over fifty organizations in the region, spends months collecting and analyzing demographic and programmatic data to illustrate key components of our early learning systems.

This report is developed to help stakeholders better understand the progress we are making toward the vision that all children have high-quality early care and learning experiences, leading to success in school and in life. The report is organized by the Washington Early Learning Plan Ready & Successful Framework and presents a very clear picture of the state of children, families, professionals, schools and systems in the NWESD region.

The State of Children and Families report is available online at https://www.nwesd.org/early_learning/nwel/report, and you can order a printed version by contacting Karma Hugo, Director of Early Learning. Email k hugo@nwesd.org or call 360.299.4045.

~Rachael Woods, NWESD 189 Communications Specialist

North Central ESD

Marcia Henkle, new NCESD Board Member

North Central ESD

North Central ESD to the AESA “Call to Action Conference,” September 16-18. (L-R) John Welch, superintendent, Jill A.S. Johnson, board member, Senator Patty Murray, and Claire Wilson, executive director, discuss issues impacting schools in the Puget Sound region and Washington State.

convenings are by teachers, for teachers. They harness the power of teacher leader networks to deepen learning and to improve teaching practices to better serve students. ECET2 Puget Sound was built on the belief that teachers hold the keys to ensuring that policy is well informed, instructional shifts are made with fidelity, and educators are equipped with the right professional development supports and network to be effective in the classroom.

The daylong convening featured breakout sessions delivered by accomplished teacher leaders in the Puget Sound region, inspirational keynote addresses, and included ample opportunities for teacher collaboration. The event was made possible with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

~Peter Daniels, PSESD Communications Manager

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~Rachael Woods, NWESD 189 Communications Specialist
At its September 22nd meeting the AESD Executive Board unanimously voted to recommend an AESD constitutional amendment to the membership that would establish a two-year term for both the President and Vice President similar to, and concurrent with, the rotation used by the AESD Superintendents’ Association. Additionally, the office of Past President would be replaced by a President Emeritus position. The President Emeritus would be selected from a pool of Past Presidents serving on the Board at that time.

With the success of the network, the role of the AESD and its Board has expanded greatly. We believe the timing is right to assure greater consistency and intentionality in our leadership. This move will better allow us to address long-term goals and issues while providing our leadership with enhanced familiarity and relationships with legislators, OSPI, Gates, etc. By moving to an Emeritus position the commitment is reduced from six years to four.

Final wording will be approved at the November 19th Board meeting with the amendment submitted to the membership for potential approval at the Conference in Yakima next April. A final draft of the amendment will appear in the next edition of the AESD Dispatch and be available to each ESD Board.

~Gary Coe, AESD President

Pictured at the April 16, 2015 Executive Board meeting in Suquamish are: Front Row (l-r): Gary Coe, AESD President, NEWESD 101 Board; Larry MacGuffie, North Central ESD Board; Superintendent Steve Myers, ESD 105; Superintendent Tim Merlino, ESD 112; Bruce Wildfang, ESD 123 Board; Dr. Richard Graham, ESD 112 Board; Rick Anthony, ESD 113 Board; Superintendent Dana Anderson, ESD 113. Back Row (l-r): Superintendent Mike Dunn, NEWESD101; Robert Beem, PSESD Board; Superintendent John Welch, PSESD; Superintendent Greg Lynch, ESD 114; Dr. Alan Erickson, NWESD 189 Board; Superintendent Bruce Hawkins, ESD 123; Superintendent Jerry Jenkins, NWESD 189; Superintendent Rich McBride, North Central ESD.
2016 Washington State Teacher of the Year Ceremony

Pictured above are 2016 Washington Regional Teachers of the Year: Back Row: Alecia McAdams-Sing (NEWESD 101); Nathan Gibbs-Bowling, Tacoma S.D. (PSESD); Ashley Leneway, Lake Chelan S.D. (North Central ESD); Michael Werner, Granite Falls S.D. (NWESD 189); Oscar Escalera, Pasco S.D. (ESD 123). Front Row: Maegan Skoubo, Raymond S.D. (ESD 113); Theresa Holland-Schmid, North Kitsap S.D. (ESD 114); Bethany Rivard, Vancouver S.D. (ESD 112); and Joyce Stark, Sunnyside S.D. (ESD 105).

2016 Regional Teachers of the Year were honored September 21 at the EMP in Seattle. Puget Sound ESD’s candidate, Nathan Gibbs-Bowling from Tacoma School District, was selected as Washington State Teacher of the Year. He is pictured above right accepting his award from State Superintendent Randy Dorn. Regional Teachers of the Year are pictured above (left) on stage at the award ceremony.
2016 AESD Conference hosted by ESD 105

Instructions
Anticipate emerging issues and develop creative, integrated solutions that differentiate products, projects, and services to match the unique contexts of school districts and communities.

Care and Feeding
1) Provide leadership for developing quality support and the necessary resources for strong student achievement in our region.
2) Cultivate optimal educational experience for all learners so they have an equal opportunity to succeed in school, community, and future endeavors.
3) Support as needed.

The Harvest
Exceptional, cost-effective service to clients that anticipates and responds to their needs... all while nurturing strong relationships/partnerships and maximizing staff expertise.

Watch it grow!

Directions for growing Snapdragons
Start indoors in a warm, well-lit area about 12 weeks before last frost. Sow seed thinly and barely press into seed-starting formula. Keep moist. Seedlings emerge in 8-14 days at 65°F.

2016 AESD State Conference
“Growth Opportunities - A Mindset for Change”
April 7-9, 2016 * Yakima Convention Center

ESD 105 staff are planning a conference that focuses on the “growth mindset” approach, offering three strands: 1) Business, 2) Education, and 3) Affective (SEL) domains as reflected in their concurrent sessions and keynote speakers, including:
• Dr. John Draper, National School Public Relations Association
• Pam Henderson, author of You Can Kill an Idea but You Can’t Kill an Opportunity
• Lori Wyborny, 2015 State Principal of the Year, Rogers High School, Spokane
• Randy Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

AESD Executive Board

A E S D  
ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICTS
Nine ESDs. One Network.
Supporting Washington’s Schools and Communities.

See the AESD Website www.aesd-wa.org for other information.
AED Dispatch is a newsletter for WA State ESD Directors published three times during the year, circulation 100.
Editor, Eldene Wall, North Central ESD ~ eldenew@ncesd.org

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