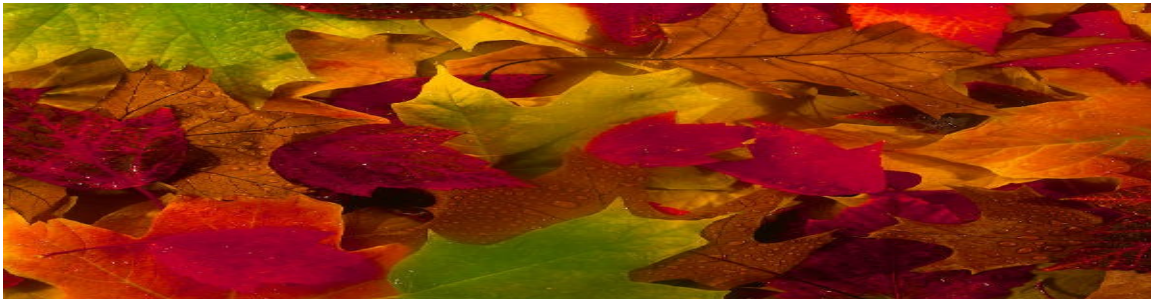




# *eMemo*

*November - December 2007*



## *Fall Sound-Off Meetings Completed:*

From Mount Vernon to Spokane to Olympia to Yakima, Tacoma and downtown Seattle, school heads from around the state took time from their busy schedules to attend regional Sound-Off meetings. Each year, during October and November, Judy Jennings and Jan Morrison take to the highways and byways to hear from private school leaders around the state. The mission is to find out the needs and concerns from our state's private schools, while at the same time disseminating information regarding important issues facing independent schools from national, state and local agencies. This year's topics included WFIS goals for 2007-08, the SBE Diploma project, the new Department of Early Learning, the Professional Educators Standards Board, potential legislation for the 2008 session and School Mapping. Educators agreed that the most beneficial part of each of the Sound-Offs was the opportunity to network with administrators from other associations and networks that they normally don't have the opportunity to interact with. Our greatest strengths as a member school organization are our diversity and our commonality, both making us unique as a federation.

## *WFIS Fall Workshop Deemed a Huge Success!*

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon, the east campus of Spring Valley Montessori School buzzed with the sounds of learning taking place for over 60 educators from around the state. After Judy Jennings, Executive Director, opened the event, Mr. Jack Klenk, Director for the Office of Non-Public Education for the U.S. Department of Education, gave opening remarks about the significance and importance of the contribution of private education nationwide and particularly to Washington State. Also present and presenting a workshop on Federal Programs was Maureen Dowling from the same federal department as well as Donna Foxley, our Region X Representative to the USDOE.

Other well-attended and extremely informative seminars included Employee Contracts and Handbooks presented by Kristen Waggoner from the law firm of Ellis, Li, and McKinstry, The Charitable Solicitations Act presented by Rhona Kwiram from Clark Nuber Accounting Firm, Air Quality in Schools presented by Paul Marchant and Laura White from the Washington State Department of Health, Teacher Residency Certification presented by Mary Jo Larsen from the Professional Educators Standards Board, and Early Learning Update given by Leslie Goldstein, Policy Advisor to Governor Gregoire. Comments heard from attendees included: "I'm so glad I came. This is exactly what I needed"! Thanks to all of the presenters and participants for making our annual Fall Workshop a great day.

## *As a WFIS Member School, Do You Have Any of These?*

- An outstanding teacher
- An outstanding student
- An outstanding administrator
- An outstanding board member
- An outstanding public official
- An outstanding parent

If you have any or all of these, fill out a nomination form for the 2008 Best of Washington Awards. We believe that our state's private schools have outstanding individuals in all of the above categories and should be recognized publicly at our annual Winter Dinner at the Museum of Flight on February 12, 2008. For more information, contact [janmorrison@wfis.org](mailto:janmorrison@wfis.org) or go to our website to download the application form at <http://wfis.org/BestofWANominations2007-08.pdf>.

## *State Board of Education:*

Recent Board Actions Relevant to Graduation Requirements: *(reprinted with SBE permission)*

- All credits earned for high school graduation must be aligned with high school grade level expectations.

- Beginning in Fall 2007, districts must acknowledge on the Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance (Form 1497) adherence to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade GLE's and/or Benchmark 3 and to minimum high school graduation requirements.
- At its September 2007 meeting, the Board approved draft concepts that will frame the staff's analysis of graduation requirements. It is conducting public outreach this Fall to solicit reactions to these concepts, which include:

1. **Purpose of a diploma:** The diploma should signify that students are ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment and citizenship. Requirements should address the personalized education needs of students as well as society's needs.

2. **One Diploma for all:** The purpose and expectations of a diploma apply to all students (with appropriate recognition for special education students on IEP's). Requirements for the diploma send a clear message to all students about what they need to succeed after high school, and ensure that students have met a common set of standards.

3. **Proposed Guiding Principles:** Graduation Requirements should:

- Establish overarching expectations/essential skills needed for student lifelong learning.
- Explore equivalency or competency credits, particularly, but not exclusively in the area of career and technical education.
- Represent a comprehensive, integrated package.
- Align with postsecondary education minimum entry requirements.

In the winter of 2008, the Board will add a third credit of math as a requirement for graduation. It will also prescribe the math content of the math graduation credits. The board was directed by the legislature to take both of these actions. The requirement will be in effect for students of the class of 2012.

In summer 2008, the Board will recommend revised graduation requirements that will likely go into effect for the class of 2013.

Questions? Contact Kathe Taylor, Ph.D., Policy Director, WSBE 360-725-6028 or [kathe.taylor@k12.wa.gov](mailto:kathe.taylor@k12.wa.gov)

## *Private School Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting of the Year:*

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, private school representatives from across the state and from each of the major constituency groups met with representatives from the State Board of Education, the Professional Educators Standards Board, the Consolidated Federal Programs Office, and OSPI to share information and review potential legislation and regulations important to private schools. The

meeting was chaired by Mr. Don Johnson, Superintendent of Cascade Christian Schools, and Mr. Martin Mueller, Private Schools Office Director from OSPI. Mrs. Laura Moore was introduced as the new administrative assistant in the Private Schools Office. She brings a long history of knowledge and involvement with private school issues from her former position as administrative assistant to the SBE Director for several years.

SBE Director Edie Harding and SBE Policy Director, Kathe Taylor presented an overview of their duties and upcoming topics for board meetings. Among those were the High School Diploma Project and the K-12 Math Program. (See e-memo article for details).

Mary Jo Larsen from the PESB presented information outlining the new responsibilities for teacher certification and professional development as well as, the new requirements for the Residency Certificate and other changes to professional certification. Private school teachers desiring to obtain National Board Certification are eligible to receive the same \$1250 scholarship as public school teachers to underwrite half the cost of completion. Private school teachers, however, will not receive the automatic \$5000 increase in pay unless their private employer chooses to provide that on their own.

Barbara Quick from the Consolidated Federal Programs Office of OSPI offered information and assistance to all private schools that would like to participate in federal programs. Each eligible title program was briefly outlined and those schools who continue to have concerns or problems with their local school district were encouraged to contact Barbara directly to find solutions to their participation issues. All attendees agreed that the meeting was productive, especially in light of the many new faces in positions of leadership within OSPI and the SBE.

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