

WashingtonPrincipal

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 Washington Association of Secondary School Principals

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National Association of Elementary School Principals
 National Association of Secondary School Principals

*starting July 1

Title: Under Construction

David Morrill

Communications Director

I've never been a school principal, but my time around them offers pretty good insight into the craziness they manage. We've got some exceptional former principals on staff, so they help us walk in your shoes (as Kelley Boyd notes in her final column as AWSP President). We know this time of year is best described as "controlled chaos" for you -- and we can totally relate!

What's new? Well, we've got three new employees coming on board, none of them in our Olympia headquarters. We're adding an intern. Our accounting practices are going through a reorganization after our accountant of 23 years retired. In July, we're reexamining the backbone of our office — our association management software — to see if there's something better. Our communications team is working frantically to get this issue to you before you're done with the year. We just launched our long-awaited new website. And we're planning this year's Summer Conference for 1,200 or so of our closest friends. Even the AWSP building is under construction!

Add a gradual transition as Gary retires and hands the keys to Scott and you really get a sense of just how much change is happening around here. With new systems, new people, new complexities, and our constant effort to offer new and improved tools and services for our members, things might get a little confused and chaotic around here before they get better. All in the name of progress.

We recently recorded a new podcast with five unbelievable high school principals, two of which are recent Principal of the Year winners. Ryan Maxwell, principal at Sunnyside High School, mentioned one of the keys to his success is finding and following your North Star. Ours is easy — it's serving you so you can better serve all kids.

I'll close with an analogy from our own Gary Kipp. There's a reason airlines tell you to put your oxygen mask on first before assisting others. The better shape you're in, the better you can help others. It's why our strategic plan includes our own internal goal of maintaining our organizational health. So as we prepare to launch a new website, tweak our software, and add new staff, please pardon our dust. The road might be bumpy for us, but we hope you won't notice a thing. ■



David Morrill is the AWSP Communications Director. He serves as Managing Editor for Washington Principal.