

New PESB Leader Focused on Educator Shortage



Alexandra Manuel
*Executive Director,
Professional Educator
Standards Board*

It is with great

enthusiasm and excitement that, in February 2018, I accepted the appointment of executive director for the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB). Prior to my new role, I served as PESB's director of educator pathways. My experience as a strategic leader has focused on education policy that expanded access to educator preparation, and advancing equity to support student success. I am thrilled to lead our agency's strategic efforts to ensure Washington has successful and highly qualified educators.

Our agency supports the 11-member Professional Educator Standards Board, as well as the nine-member Paraeducator Board. Staff and board members share a mutual dedication and drive toward improving the

state's P-12 education system, and I am grateful every day for the collaborative and committed minds each of them bring to the table.

Great minds are what it takes to move the needle on the impact we're hoping to create. PESB's highest priorities include supporting educator quality, workforce development, and overseeing policy and programs related to educator preparation, pathways, credentialing and certification. To ensure we achieve our goals, we must make sure Washington educators are well prepared, well engaged, and are well equipped in their roles. I look forward to advancing PESB's policy roles, in continued collaboration with the education community in Washington. We are lucky to work with partners around the state who have a vested interest in our educators and our students.

One of my top areas of focus includes leveraging new and existing statewide partnerships to tackle the existing educator shortage. The principals we work with express concern for

how they will address the current educator shortage, and where they will find the next generation of teachers. One of PESB's roles is to address the educator shortage. To do this, we want to engage with stakeholders around the state to collect your feedback for how to best support districts in addressing all areas of concern. These opportunities for conversations will also help us to elevate a variety of resources currently available.

We have programs, tools and resources to help support principals and their schools, including the Grow Your Own initiative, alternative routes to teacher certification, and workforce development resources for your HR teams. I look forward to the continued partnership between PESB and AWSP. We appreciate having representation from AWSP at our PESB board meetings and work group meetings. We encourage AWSP and their partners to continue coming to the table, to share ideas and join in discussion on how we can collectively and collaboratively better serve Washington educators and students. ■

Working to Serve All Students



Randy Spaulding
*Executive Director, State
Board of Education*

Right now is a fantastic time to engage with the Board and staff as we develop strategic priorities and initiatives to support student success and guide our work over the

next several years. We are reaching out across the state to hear about the hopes and dreams for the young people in our communities and what might need to change to fulfill those desires. What's working in our communities that would benefit from state support? What barriers could policymakers address to make our school system more responsive to the needs of students? These questions will inform the board's priorities for the 2018 Strategic Plan.

STATE AND FEDERAL EFFORTS

Our work will build on a lot of great work already occurring at the state and local level. For example, the governor's office has been leading some work focused on supporting the expansion of career-connected learning opportunities including youth apprenticeship and other work-integrated learning opportunities. We are engaging with the governor's office and other agencies to increase

opportunities for high quality, relevant work-integrated learning opportunities and to identify needed policy supports.

The board also is keenly aware schools are responding to a range of challenges. To address some of these, the board will employ not only its role in establishing policy, but also its role as an advocate for our K-12 education system. While social-emotional learning has been part of the board's advocacy platform, we are now exploring a more comprehensive position on student well-being. We continue to advocate for resources to address the teacher shortage, as well as the professional development needs of current educators to ensure all students have access to a rich, engaging learning experience.

As a result of recent changes to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), we collaborated with OSPI to implement a new accountability system — the Washington School Improvement Framework — and OSPI is rolling out the associated supports for schools. Many high schools are adapting to the 24-credit graduation requirement, new course requirements including changes in science still being phased in, and a new requirement for a stand-alone civics course. The 2018 legislative session also resulted in funding changes that present some unique challenges as schools and districts adapt to the new model. While we believe these changes will lead to positive outcomes in the long term, it is clear capacity for additional innovation may be limited.

SERVING ALL STUDENTS

It is critical we hear from schools about what works and what needs improvement. There is good alignment between the priorities of the board and school principals. Like many districts, the board is addressing issues of equity head on, using our new equity statement to guide our priorities and decision making. We remain committed to high standards for all students and advocate for needed supports to better serve them.

As we develop our strategic plan priorities, please join us for one of our regional forums, share your thoughts in writing using our online feedback form, or send us an email. A complete schedule is available online at: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov>. Take the Board's Strategic Plan Feedback Survey: <http://bit.ly/SBE-SP-Survey> ■

District Leaders Welcome Aune at WASA



Joel Aune
*Superintendent,
Snoqualmie Valley,
Incoming WASA
Executive Director*

After serving for the past 28 years as a principal and school superintendent, I consider it a distinct honor to succeed Dr. Bill Keim as executive director of WASA.

During the past 20 years, WASA has been a significant source of support in my work as a superintendent. The professional development, member support, and legislative advocacy that WASA represents is key for any school superintendent or central office administrator. Like AWSP, the networking opportunities through WASA enabled me to establish professional relationships and life-long friendships which have been enormously impactful on my career.

School and school district leadership is both the lifeblood of public education, and its moral backbone. AWSP and WASA play an essential role in supporting, shaping, and developing school leaders who skillfully and courageously champion the effort to provide great schools for all students.

The research is clear that stellar leadership is essential to creating and sustaining outstanding schools. In fact, it is nearly impossible to improve student achievement in a school without capable leadership from the principal. Over the past 13 years in the Snoqualmie Valley School District, we worked with intentionality to develop leadership capacity and refine those skills required to effectively sponsor and lead school improvement efforts.

During this time, we pushed a persistent emphasis with our principals to develop key leadership skills and best-practice behaviors for school improvement. Through

focused professional development and the implementation of a relevant and growth-oriented principal evaluation experience, our principals and assistant principals are better equipped to meet the expectations we established for them in their work to lead our schools — expectations that are loftier than ever before.

Both WASA and AWSP represent the very best in leadership. We share a relentless commitment to the pursuit of equity and excellence in student learning, and we have a keen interest in advocating for education policy that is best for kids. Bill Keim and Gary Kipp worked to build and sustain a strong partnership of collaboration between WASA and AWSP. I look forward to working with your new executive director, Scott Seaman, to carry forward the important work of supporting school leaders and advocating for public policy that will serve the best interests of the students who attend our schools. ■