

PERSPECTIVE



Central Valley Education Association

February 2013

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Elections

When the nominations closed at the CVEA General meeting on January 22, there were no contested races, so the Building Representatives voted to elect all candidates by acclamation.

Your officers for next year are:

- President - Steve Lalonde
- Vice President - Scott Knowles
- Secretary - Vicki Arnold
- High School at large - Wally Watson
- Middle School at large - Monica Larson
- Elementary at large - Keith Hoekema
- Special Services at large - Heather Graham

WEA Representative Assembly delegates are:

- Steve Lalonde
- Scott Knowles (WEA Board)
- DM Freed
- Monica Larson
- Wally Watson
- Cheryl Sampson
- Brad Thew
- Heather Graham

NEA Representative Assembly delegates are:

- Steve Lalonde
- Scott Knowles (State delegate)
- Monica Larson
- Brad Thew

Thanks to those who are willing to serve to keep CVEA functioning and involved in the issues that challenge our profession.

WEA supports proposed changes in teacher pay

As part of its efforts to comply with the McCleary decision, the Legislature created a committee to recommend changes on how teachers are paid. The Compensation Technical Work Group recommendations include increasing beginning teacher pay to about \$48,000 a year. WEA supports the recommendations in their current form and believes they should be funded as part of the McCleary order. Read the complete teacher pay recommendations, [Compensation Technical Working Group Executive Summary](#).

Legislature proposes an abundance of education bills

(reprinted from Lake Washington's newsletter, The Update)

It's still early in the 105-day 2013 legislative session, but legislators already are proposing a long list of education bills. Expect more legislation in the coming days, including rumored bills dealing with collective bargaining, evaluations, school staffing and teacher pay.

Some are good...and some are bad.

Senate Bill 5366 and House Bill

1293, the Parent Right-to-Know bills, are among WEA's legislative priorities for the 2013 legislative session. Other bills related to student testing include HB 1015, which removes passing the state high school assessments as a graduation requirement, in addition to eliminating tests that aren't federally required. WEA supports the bill, which was heard yesterday in the House Education Committee. WEA opposes Senate Bill 5237, which would make the third grade reading measure of student progress test a high stakes test for promotion to fourth grade.

Monday, Sen. Steve Litzow released SB 5328, which would assign a letter grade to each school based on student test scores, among other things. While Litzow and other legislators want to grade schools, they ignore the fact that Washington's students are packed into the fourth-most-overcrowded classrooms in the United States.

In the last five years, the Legislature has cut \$2.6 billion from K-12 schools. Last year, the state Supreme Court's McCleary ruling ordered the Legislature to increase K-12 school funding as required by the Constitution. Sen. Litzow, the chairman of the Senate Education Committee, has not said how he intends to fulfill that obligation to our students.

WEA supports these bills in their current form:

- HB 1067 – Enhancing the basic education allocation formula for principals, assistant princi-

pals, and other certificated building-level administrators to support the teacher evaluation program requirements.

- SB 5155 – Regarding long-term suspension or expulsion from school.
- SB 5244 – Regarding school suspensions and expulsions.
- SB 5245 – Regarding the collection of student suspension and expulsion data.
- SB 5117 – Regarding family involvement coordinators in public schools.
- HB 1144 – Regarding qualifications for educational interpreters.
- HB 1283 – Changing compulsory school attendance requirements for children six and seven years of age.

And also on Monday, Supt. of Public Instruction Randy Dorn highlighted support for HB 1450, which reduces the number of required high school assessments — an idea WEA supports.

STEM lighthouse schools

(reprinted from WEA website)

Six schools and an entire district were awarded \$19,000 grants and will serve as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math mentors to other schools in the state.

Source: OSPI news release

Each will receive \$19,000 and mentor other schools. Known as “Lighthouse” schools, the seven entities were recently awarded the grants to promote and develop STEM education, including technical assistance and advice for other elementary, middle and high schools that are creating their own STEM environments.

They include:

- Delta High School (Kennewick)
- Bremerton High School (Bremerton)
- Stevens Elementary School (Aberdeen)
- West Valley Junior High School (West Valley Yakima)
- San Juan School District
- West Hills STEM Academy (Bremerton)
- WF West High School (Chehalis)

“These Lighthouse schools are doing great things for STEM education,” said Randy Dorn, state superintendent. “The work they do will benefit classrooms across the state.”

STEM Lighthouse schools originated in 2010 with the Legislature’s passage of House Bill 2621. The bill directs the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to designate as many as three middle and three high schools each year as lighthouse schools. The schools “serve as resources and examples of how to combine the following best practices:

- Small, highly personalized learning communities;
- An interdisciplinary curriculum with a strong focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), delivered through a project-based instructional approach; and
- Active partnerships with businesses and the local community to connect learning beyond the classroom.

2012 winners

- Eastmont Junior High School (Eastmont)
 - Secondary Academy for Success (Northshore)
 - Science and Math Institute (Tacoma)
 - Stewart Middle School (Tacoma)
 - Toppenish High School (Toppenish)
 - Odessa School District
- 2011 winners
- Aviation High School (Highline)
 - Komachin Middle School (North Thurston)
 - Mead School District



INCENTIVE FOR ANNOUNCING RETIREMENT

Are you thinking of retiring this year? The CVSD is offering a financial incentive to announce your retirement early again this year. If you officially notify the District before February 15 of your intent to retire, the District will put \$1000 directly into your VEBA account. If you announce after February 15 but before March 1, it will go down to \$500. Remember that this benefit is tax-free and will be available to help cover medical costs immediately and premiums when you retire.

The CVEA would encourage you to consider this option if retirement is in your immediate future.

CERTIFICATED TRANSFER PROCESS

If you would like to request a transfer, you can find the appropriate form on MYCVSD. Scroll over the FORMS item in the green list on the left side of the page and a drop down menu will appear. Click on HUMAN RESOURCES FORMS and the Certificated Transfer Request is the second item listed.

Please remember that the transfer request is due by April 1. If you need general information about the process, please contact Tracy (4440). Individual counsel regarding the transfer process is available by contacting HR and setting up an appointment with Jay Rowell.

reprinted from the CVSD HR newsletter



SPI says Washington state will apply for No Child Left Behind waiver

(OSPI News Release:)

“My office looked at hundreds of comments from the general public,” State Superintendent Randy Dorn said. “I talked to many people in districts and schools and worked closely with the State Board of Education on the application. Schools need to be relieved from the burden of No Child Left Behind and focus their time and energy on helping our students succeed.”

If approved, Washington state would be relieved of Adequate Yearly Progress rules. Current AYP rules include increasing consequences for Title I schools and districts that do not meet certain percentage levels of students passing state tests each year. In 2011, roughly two out of every three schools in Washington did not meet AYP.

Schools that do not meet AYP two or more years in a row are considered in a “step” of improvement. Those schools must set aside 20 percent of their Title I money for supplemental educational services and for students

who might request school choice. A waiver would eliminate the set-aside requirement.

As an alternative to current AYP rules, Washington would set annual measurable objectives that focus on the proficiency gaps between different groups of students. By 2017, the gaps would be half of what they were in 2011.

“By looking at the achievement gap, our plan focuses on the students most in need,” Dorn said. “Our intent is for the 20 percent of set-aside money to get those students individualized help.”

States requesting a waiver must establish and meet four principles:

1. College and career-ready expectations for all students;
2. State-developed differentiated recognition, accountability and support;
3. Support for effective instruction and leadership; and
4. Reduction in duplication and unnecessary burden.

Washington has met all four principles. In 2011, the state adopted the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and math, and it is a lead state in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. The state is adopting a new accountability system. It also passed historical legislation

in 2010 that will change the way teachers and principals are evaluated. Finally, reducing duplication is an ongoing task in all states.

No Child Left Behind refers to the 2002 iteration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), first passed by the U.S. Congress in the mid-1960s. NCLB was scheduled to be reauthorized in 2007, but Congress could not agree on a reauthorization package, which meant the existing law stayed in effect.

“Congress really needs to do its job and rewrite No Child Left Behind,” Dorn said. “The law raised a lot of awareness that all students need to be proficient in math and reading. Unfortunately, it also punished schools and districts unfairly, and it set unrealistic goals that no school or district can meet.”

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Education announced that 10 of the 11 states that initially applied for waivers were approved, and the department is working with the 11th state.

A copy of the draft of Washington’s waiver application can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/Pubdocs/DraftFlexibilityRequest.pdf>. The final application is due Feb. 28.

New EngineerGirl website and essay contest

(From WEA website)

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) has officially launched a new EngineerGirl website along with the 13th annual EngineerGirl Essay Contest. The contest is entitled, “Engineering: Essential to Our Health,” and it can be found on the new website (EngineerGirl.org). Students

are encouraged to write about the role of engineering in helping to prevent and treat the most deadly conditions in the world today. Details and rules can be found on the contest page.

Participation in the contest is open to both girls and boys in grades 3-12 and submissions must be entered by 6:00 pm (EST) on March 1, 2013. All winning entries will be published on the EngineerGirl website and winners will receive cash prizes: first place winners \$500, second place winners \$250, third place winners \$100.

The EngineerGirl website is designed to spark the curiosity of young people, girls in particular, and encourage them to consider careers in engineering. Using input from 135 girls across the country, the NAE re-designed its popular website with several new features and an entirely different design and organization. This is the first major redesign since EngineerGirl premiered in 2000.

The work was made possible by generous support from the Lockheed Martin Corporation. Please visit EngineerGirl.org to learn more.

We may be participating in the St. Patrick’s Day parade with WEA Eastern Washington. Please call Steve at 926-0201 if you would like to be involved.



Thanks to the many members who are serving on a variety of committees

We have several active committees addressing issues that matter to our members. The charge to these committees is to propose contract language to bring to the bargaining process in reopeners and full contract bargaining. These committees include:

- Collaboration
- Evaluation
- Evening Conferences
- Insurance
- K-5 Cocurricular teachers
- Special Education Balance
- Spokane Valley Tech Employees

CVEA Executive Board

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