

# Board Governance and Beyond

*Summer Leadership Institute focused on improving board governance and other key school leadership issues*

The 2017 Summer Leadership Institute, held July 14-15 in Green Bay, focused on improving board governance for new and experienced school board members. Session topics included conducting effective board meetings, master planning, legal and policy-making duties of board members, board-superintendent relations, employee engagement and much more.

Barry Forbes, WASB associate executive director and staff counsel, led the session on conducting effective school board meetings. The session covered a host of topics from procedures and rules, to open meetings law and, among others, public participation. Forbes said boards need to clearly communicate and set boundaries for the public comment period of meetings.

“Public comment periods are forums subject to First Amendment protections. Boards may adopt rules setting time limits, prohibiting obscene and threatening behavior and requiring proper decorum during public comment periods, but must be very cautious about enforcing rules that regulate or limit what people may say.” Forbes said. “The presiding officer of the meeting must be willing to assert a strong presence,

consistently enforce the ‘rules,’ and exercise patience.”

Another important aspect of board governance for school board members is understanding their legal and policy making duties. Dan Mallin, WASB staff counsel, presented an in-depth two-part session on this topic. This session challenged attendees to approach difficult issues and the process of defining the role of the school board and the role of the administration by thinking a little like a lawyer, a little like a legislator, and a lot like a leader. That is, viewing and analyzing issues (1) through the lens of state and federal law, (2) through the lens of local policy, and (3) using the “Key Works” framework for school board governance. This approach can shed helpful light on what a school board is required to do, what it may do, what it is currently doing, what the board wants to do in the future, and what they should do as local leaders.

School leaders from the St. Croix Central School District shared their journey in improving their employee engagement. District administrator Tim Widiker and school board member John Hueg discussed how their district focused on defining what employee engagement is and how they have worked to establish an engaged



culture in their schools. Data gathered from staff on an employee engagement survey shows the district has seen an improvement in employee engagement over the past three years. The district also monitors employee engagement at each school through formal action plans and holds feedback sessions and “honest conversations” with employees where they are asked what they would change about their job/supervisor, etc.

“St. Croix Central’s systemic, intentional focus on Employee Engagement the last three years has improved engagement of our staff, which in turn has led to greater student engagement and achievement,” Widiker said. □

*These are just a few of the sessions from the Summer Leadership Institute. For presentations from all of the sessions, visit [wasb.org](http://wasb.org). Select “Trainings and Events” and then “Event Recaps” (log-in required).*

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

The WASB hosts a series of webinars throughout the year on legal, policy, and other important school leadership topics. Here is a look at the upcoming webinars from the WASB.

### ■ PUPIL RECORDS

**Aug. 2, 12-1 pm** | Presenter: Bob Butler, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel

This presentation covers state and federal laws relating to the maintenance and release of pupil records. We will cover the basics of the pupil records law and focus on limitations to the release of pupil records and on recent changes in the law.

### ■ SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUMS – LEGAL & POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

**Aug. 9, 12 – 1 pm** | Presenter: Barry Forbes, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel

More and more school districts are going to referenda for funding and facilities. This interactive webinar will cover the legal and policy considerations that you should consider before going to referenda. The webinar will provide detailed analysis of the different types of referenda, the

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Twitter Feed

@wasbwi - 2 hours ago

RT @MollyBeck: Sen @GovWalker's proposal to require districts have staff pay 12 percent of health care costs to get

**The WASB launched a new website this summer.** If you are a WASB member, please visit the page and log in. You will have to reset your password (if necessary, contact WASB staff at [info@wasb.org](mailto:info@wasb.org) for assistance). The new site is mobile-friendly and makes it easier to find WASB legal, policy, governance and advocacy resources. As before, a wealth of information is available on the site and even more is available to logged-in WASB members.

procedure and timing of referenda, the use of district funds and resources during a referendum, the roles of the board, individual board members and staff during a referendum, and how districts, staff, and boards may interact with third party groups (e.g., "vote yes," "vote no," etc).

## ■ PUPIL EXPULSION

**Sept. 13, 1:30-2:30 pm** | Presenter: Bob Butler, Associate Executive Director and Staff Counsel

This webinar presentation covers state and federal laws relating to the pupil expulsions. The presentation will

provide a roadmap for considering the expulsion of pupils and to help avoid common pitfalls when doing so. The presentation will focus on procedures for administrators as well as for boards that conduct their own expulsion hearings.

*Please note:* These and all previous webinars are recorded and available on demand. WASB members can purchase any webinar and watch when their schedule allows. Upcoming live and pre-recorded webinars are listed on the WASB Webinars page at [wasb.org](http://wasb.org) (select "Trainings & Events" and then "Webinars").



2017 FALL REGIONAL MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND ADVANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION

DATES: SEPT. & OCT. – VARIES PER LOCATION  
LOCATIONS DETERMINED BY REGION



UPCOMING EVENTS

## WASB Fall Regional Meetings

Join us as we recognize school board members, hold elections for the WASB board of directors, discuss activities of the WASB and more at the Fall Regional Meetings.

This year, an in-depth legislative update will also be provided. WASB Government Relations staff will provide an update to members on the most pertinent current legislative proposals and lead a discussion on how school leaders can be advocates for their district.

In addition, the Regional Meetings take time to recognize school

board members who have reached a new level in the WASB Board Development Program. School board members earn points by attending WASB and National School Boards Association (NSBA) programs and activities

WASB Executive Director John Ashley will wrap up the meeting with the Executive Director’s Report, which will inform members about the activities and future direction of the WASB.

For more information, visit [wasb.org](http://wasb.org). □

- Region 1** | Oct. 11 – Ashland\*\*  
Oct. 12 – Rice Lake\*\*
  - Region 2** | Oct. 10 – Minocqua
  - Region 3** | Oct. 5 – Green Bay\*
  - Region 4** | Oct. 24 – Eau Claire
  - Region 5** | Oct. 26 – Rothschild
  - Region 6** | Oct. 25 – Westby\*
  - Region 7** | Sept. 26 – Neenah
  - Region 8** | Sept. 27 – Kiel\*
  - Region 9** | Sept. 19 – Fennimore
  - Region 10** | Oct. 18 – Wis. Dells
  - Region 11 & 15** | Oct. 17 – Pewaukee\*
  - Region 12** | Oct. 4 – Madison\*
  - Region 13** | Oct. 3 – Elkhorn
  - Region 14** | TBD – Milwaukee\*
- \* Denotes regions with elections for WASB Board of Directors  
\*\* Denotes two options for Region 1

PRE-REGIONAL MEETING WORKSHOP

### Implications of the 2017-19 State Budget for School Boards

Beyond its funding provisions, the 2017-19 state budget included numerous changes to state law impacting Wisconsin public school districts. As a result, school boards may need to review their policies and make budget adjustments. At this workshop, learn more about the specifics of the major statutory changes and implications on local district policies. Make sure your district doesn’t fall behind in making the appropriate and necessary changes. *Presented by WASB Legal Services staff.*

**Workshops will be held immediately prior** to the Regional Meetings (above) from 4-6 pm at the same facility. Members are welcome to attend workshops in any region. Regional Meeting registration is not required. Registration begins at 4 pm, the workshop starts at 4:30 pm. □



## Are You Receiving Our Emails?

The WASB wants to ensure you are receiving all of the timely legislative updates, legal and policy notices, and meeting invitations that you are entitled to receive with your membership.

If you are not receiving WASB emails or would prefer they be sent to a different email address, please contact us at [info@wasb.org](mailto:info@wasb.org) or toll-free at 1-877-705-4422.

WASB emails include the weekly *eConnection* newsletter, the weekly *Legislative Update*, periodic event emails, and, among others, the *Legal & Policy Newsletter*.