



Announcement

Washington State School Directors' Association
January 3, 2014

Longtime School Administrator Named Acting Executive Director

Dr. James Koval of Lacey has been named acting executive director of the Washington State School Directors Association. He will begin the new job Wednesday, January 8.

The WSSDA board of directors approved the appointment by unanimous vote. Koval will guide the association while officials search for a permanent executive director. Officials plan to conduct a nationwide recruitment to find a candidate to head the group that represents all 1,477 elected school board members in Washington state.

"We are thrilled that Jim agreed to step in," said WSSDA President Mari Taylor. "His extensive experience in education policy and implementation brings great perspective to the work of WSSDA. We feel very fortunate."

Koval retired in 2009 after serving 11 years as Superintendent of North Thurston Public Schools. He also spent 23 years at North Thurston High School. He served in a range of capacities including as assistant principal and principal. Since retiring, Koval has kept a leadership role in education in the state. This included more than three years as project director of the state's Teacher/Principal Evaluation Project.

Taylor said it was important to fill the acting position quickly, given the number of significant education issues, including state funding, implementation of Common Core standards and testing, as well as teacher-principal evaluation.

"Jim has a clear understanding of the policy issues and is a seasoned manager," Taylor said. "The education world is changing rapidly and his experience is a real asset."

The longtime educator will head up an organization of about 15 professional staff.

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with state school directors and the employees of an association who are so committed," Koval said in accepting the position. "They have done much to improve K-12 education for school districts and the students they serve."

Founded in 1922, WSSDA's core mission focuses on making sure that school board members have the knowledge, tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts and improve student learning.

The organization provides policy, board development, legislative and other assistance to the state's 295 school districts. Those districts serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of nearly \$13 billion, and employ more than 160,000 people.

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