

Michelle Perry – Vice President Candidate Statement

My name is Michelle Perry and I am in my 11th year on the Sunnyside School Board. I have been very active within WSSDA and NSBA. I have attended every annual conference since I have been on my board, and I have attended eight national conferences. I have also been a regular attendee at our Day on The Hill and Legislative assembly. I started out on the Resolutions Committee, where I served for four years. I then went onto the Legislative committee, where I am currently in my 3rd term. I am also active in the Federal Relations Network and have traveled to Washington DC five times to advocate on behalf of Washington State students at a National Level. I have also attended several Equity symposiums and conferences. My most recent appointment is being elected for the Education Foundation. I have also had the privilege of presenting with my board at annual and national conferences. I have been board vice-chair and have served as the legislative representative for many years. I actively reach out to other districts within my director area and talk to them about legislative issues and get their feedback. I am also a Leadership WSSDA graduate. I have attended two trainings at Harvard University, one on parent engagement and the other SEL. I believe that candidates who run for WSSDA board should be members that are active at a state and national level.

Being the mother of 6 daughters has given me the opportunity to be involved with public education for over 25 years. I have been involved at all levels within the schools, as a parent, volunteer, substitute teacher, and as a board member. My husband is also an employee of public schools as a Para Computer Lab Manager. Education has always been a passion of mine, and I believe in public education; that is why I ran for the school board. As a board member, I advocate at both the state and national levels on current issues affecting our 1.1 million students. I advocate on behalf of the 1,477 board members from across the state. One of the most valuable assets is being able to advocate on behalf of ALL school districts. I have been able to connect, challenge, and collaborate with boards across the state. Public education and our 1.1 million students have to be at the core of the work that we do as school boards. We have to stand up for equity and equitable solutions. I am a very outspoken person, and I will make sure your voice, our voice, the voices of 1.1 million students, and the 1,477 school board members are heard. I am not afraid to speak up for what is right and to challenge others. Public

education is the standing stone of America and a vital part of our country. Respecting and embracing our differences across the state and trying to find one voice is what I will strive for. Our schools are not a one size fits all; our schools and districts are as diverse as the children and communities we serve. We have to find equitable solutions. Public Education is the foundation of America. I will be a voice for the 1.1 million students we serve, the 295 school districts, and the 1,477 school board members in Washington state. We have made a lot of steps in the right direction, but we have a long way to go.

My experience, my voice and my willingness to listen and improve is what makes me a good candidate for WSSDA Vice President.