

CONNECTIONS

WEA-Sammamish UniServ Council

How has the public
school funding crisis
impacted you?

President's Message: *New Numbers - Same Message*

- 42nd in per pupil expenditures
- 46th in average class size
- \$548 less spent per student than in 1992

Most of us have heard the numbers. Now Washington Learns has revealed new numbers --- and those new numbers shouldn't come as a surprise to any of us. The numbers don't lie. School funding in this state is woefully inadequate and well behind other states.

Washington Learns, the committee created and chaired by Governor Christine Gregoire and charged with doing a comprehensive analysis of school funding, has been touring the state listening to input on its draft report.

The committee compared Washington State to other states and evaluated each state's preparedness to compete in a global economy. Washington ranked second of all 50 states for our potential to perform in the new global economy. But when you look at education --- a key driver in economic development --- the results, as reported by its Executive Director Ann Daley, disturbed Washington Learns.

Of the ten Global Competitive states, Washington ranks 8th in per child K-12 expenditures, 9th in student-teacher ratios, and 7th in average teacher salaries. Sound familiar? Same song, second verse of the numbers we all know.

In her introduction at each hearing, Daley concluded, "Without increased educational achievement -- to educate everyone at higher levels -- we will lose our competitive edge."

And while the Governor seeks to create a world-class, student-centered education system, we cannot create a world-class education system on the current funding model. It simply can't be done. And that's what the committee heard at each of its hearings around the state.

The final draft of the report will be released in mid-November. Regardless of what the final draft says, we must continue to work within our Associations and communities to build the political will to appropriately fund education. Stay tuned for more information about WEA-Sammamish's **Take the lead** campaign. Be ready to join the effort.



Mary Lindquist—Council President

CONGRATULATIONS JILL VAN GLUBT

Jill Van Glubt, Eastlake High School Vocational Technology teacher, Lake Washington EA member, and Sammamish UniServ WEA-PAC chairman, has been appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire as chair of Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB).

Since January, the PESB is the policy-making board, setting the WACs related to certification. Its mission is to uphold high standards for educator preparation, certification, and professional growth. It recognizes that highly qualified educators are essential to

achieving high standards for all students.

Jill says: “I’m very excited to take on the role of chairing the PESB, which is so important to every educator in the state of Washington. Making the road to certification viable and valuable for all who are in education or preparing to enter the field is critical. I am honored to represent the teachers of the state of Washington in this important work.”



Jill Van Glubt



Take the lead.

Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools

Take the lead has gone public with newspaper ads, radio and television commercials, and a series of community meetings designed to broaden the base beyond WEA.

Members are encouraged to join community leaders, the League of Education Voters Foundation, the Washington Education Association, and the Washington State PTA for a new and open conversation about school funding.

For more information about **Take the lead**, go to www.washingtonea.org.

REMEMBER TO VOTE — NOVEMBER 7

November’s State Supreme Court and Washington Legislature races will impact public education for the next several years. Every vote counts and makes a difference, including yours!

For information about the November elections, visit WEA's members-only election web page at www.washingtonea.org/vote. The user name is *WEA* and the password is *vote4schools*. **DO NOT ACCESS THIS SITE FROM SCHOOL COMPUTERS.**

NEW EDUCATOR CAUCUS

Join members from Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Riverview, Snoqualmie Valley and Tahoma school districts for great food, collegiality and topics relevant to new educators.

Our first meeting is Tuesday, October 17, at the WEA-Sammamish Council office from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Dinner is provided and clock hours are available. Email Charlotte Cole at ccole@washingtonea.org to register.



WEA-PAC is the political action committee of our Association and the collective voice in the state for better public schools.

Please contribute to WEA-PAC and support your local WEA-PAC drive to have an impact on the election of friends of education.

Remember, only WEA-PAC funds are used in support of candidates—no WEA dues can be used for political purposes.

WEA-SAMMAMISH

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Executive Board

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