

Lessons learned

Getting started



When I became a school board member 10 years ago, I didn't anticipate the huge learning curve in front of me. I was excited to get to work,

but one of the things I had to learn was the new language of "educationese." If you are having that experience, here are a couple of suggestions:

- *Highlight unfamiliar acronyms and terms in your board packet. Before your meetings, meet with your board chair or superintendent to unravel mysterious letters.*
- *Remember that complicated language is a barrier to the public. Request that acronyms and uncommon terms be explained during public meetings.*

Keep in mind, that you and your fellow board members are the link between your schools and community.

[Phil Gore](#)

Director, Leadership Development

“**To be a leader, be a reader**”

[Colleen Miller](#) recommends:

The Essential School Board Book

by Nancy Walser

Harvard Education Press

Foundations for successful school directors

Helping you get connected!



Welcome to the 2012 school director cohort! You've joined a community of 1,477 school directors across Washington. All of us at WSSDA want to congratulate you. We are here to support you in your important new role. As part of that, we have introduced this newsletter for new school directors.

One characteristic of successful board members is that they connect to one another and to organizations that serve as resources. Helping you do this is a big part of our job.

We are your Association, providing you with relevant information on legislation, advocacy, and effective practices. We do this through ongoing communication via our newsletter and electronic sources, such as the Legislative Update, Webinars, and podcasts. The WSSDA website contains these resources and more, some of which are targeted to new board members.

One feature of the [website](#) is the [Forum](#), where members discuss topics or ask questions of other members. This forum includes a new board member feature where the cohort of 2012 can network and build collegial relationships. It is a place for sharing perspectives and advice, and raising topics for dialogue. You may view the discussions without registering, but you cannot participate until registered. Again, congratulations. Let us know how we can help.

[Jonelle Adams](#)

WSSDA Executive Director



