Advance Notice
September 26, 2018

Legislative Matters (GP-3) – Board

Action to be taken: Action, if any, determined by Board discussion.

Dr. Gallinger, along with Directors Callan and Maraldo, attended the WSSDA Legislative Assembly on September 21 and 22 in Spokane. For Board discussion, below are the three legislative positions sponsored by the Issaquah School District:

Comprehensive School Safety (number 17 of the 2018 Legislative Assembly Listing of Proposals & Positions)

The Position Statement passed the Assembly with the underlined amendments:

- WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that will provide stable and adequate funding for local discretionary use to:
    - Support all-hazards approach for planning for and managing school crises, including but not limited to expanding staff trainings, coordinating with mental health professionals, coordinating with community partners, emergency management agencies and law enforcement, and promoting student awareness and engagement.
    - Require and fund social emotional learning, mental health professionals and services in schools, expanded instruction on digital citizenship, bullying and hazing prevention programs, threat assessments, and interventions for at-risk students.
    - Retrofit school buildings for safety and security purposes.
    - Provide for School Resource Officers (SROs), School Security Officers (SSOs), Campus Safety Officers (CSOs) and/or private security firms in all school districts, according to local needs.
    - Promote gun violence prevention by adequately funding public-health research and education on firearms-related issues.

Continue to Allocate K-3 Class Size Reduction Funding (Number 18 of the 2018 Legislative Assembly Listing of Proposals & Positions)

The Position Statement passed the Assembly with no amendments:

- WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that will delay the implementation of the K-3 class size funding restrictions, and provide flexibility to local districts to hire and fund teachers to reach the 17:1 overall ratio despite the actual class size, should classroom space not be available.

Gun Violence Prevention (Number 22 of the 2018 Legislative Assembly Listing of Proposals & Positions)

The Position Statement passed the Assembly with no amendments:

- In the interest of school safety, WSSDA shall support legislation calling for gun violence prevention.
    - Promote gun violence prevention, adequately funds public health research and education on firearms related issues, and materially advances the coordinated delivery of mental health prevention and intervention programs between schools and communities, as they are likely more effective than stand-alone programs.
    - Rejects arming of any additional (beyond current laws) school staff for any purpose, and will maintain existing regulation of firearms at school and will NOT support any effort to arm educators and staff.
    - Support the existing regulation banning firearms from schools as detailed under RCW 9.41.280 and support additional legislation that reduces risk of mass casualty events such as safe storage of firearms.