



# Rural Education Center

Jim Kowalkowski, Director  
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Web Site: <http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>  
In Partnership with...

Housed at Davenport School District

801 7<sup>th</sup> Street

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Washington State University & NEWESD 101

September 6, 2016

## THANK YOU LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Rural Ed. Center Members:



Thank you for your continued support of the Rural Education Center. While trying not to sound like a political slogan, I do believe that the small and rural districts and partners in our state are certainly stronger when we are together and united! We may be small but we are mighty and we do an outstanding job of providing a quality education for our students despite some significant challenges.

I am very proud to serve as your executive director and I hope that you will continue your membership in the Rural Ed. Center. Here is a short summary of activities that I have been engaged in this past spring and summer as your director:

- ✓ *Served on a panel during the May 20 Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB). Our topic was "Responding to the Current Teacher Shortages".*
- ✓ *Met with Governor Inslee on July 23 to share the small and rural school perspective regarding fully funding basic education.*
- ✓ *Presented a detailed report while serving on a panel during the July 13 meeting of the Education Funding Task Force in Olympia. The topic of my presentation was, "Basic and Non-Basic Ed. Spending: A Small and Rural School District Perspective".*
- ✓ *Currently serving as a member of OSPI's "Effective Educators Workgroup".*

As the 2017 legislative session approaches, I encourage each of you to reach out and get your state legislators into your schools. Help them to see first-hand the successes and challenges that your students, staff, and community faces. As you know, the final "McCleary Countdown" is underway and it is imperative that our legislators understand the importance of meeting their paramount duty obligations.

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Letter to REC Members – page 2



I want to thank Dr. Jake Dingman for his service as the President of the Rural Education Center for the past two years. Jake serves as the superintendent/principal for the Oakesdale School District and is a strong advocate for our small and rural districts. **Congratulations to our new President: Mr. Kyle Rydell. Kyle is the superintendent and K-8 principal for the Liberty School District. Kyle is very excited to bring his leadership to the Rural Ed. Center!**

I have included an agenda from the REC member meeting at the WASA Small Schools conference that was held in Wenatchee this past spring. This agenda provides a good summary of the topics that are discussed during REC member meetings. Also included are the Rural Education Center's 2016 Legislative Platform and list of members. This document will be updated this fall as we prepare for the 2017 legislative session.

It is indeed noteworthy that leaders from our small and rural schools have recently assumed some new positions:

- ✓ Dr. Lois Davies (Pateros Superintendent & Past President of the REC) is the 2016-17 WASA President!
- ✓ Mr. Tim Garchow (former Rainier Superintendent) was hired a few months ago as the new WSSDA Executive Director!

We wish Lois and Tim well in their new leadership roles. They “get it” when it comes to understanding and advocating for our small and rural districts and communities!

I wish each of you a rewarding and successful 2016-17 school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at [jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu](mailto:jimkowalkowski@davenport.wednet.edu) or by phone at 509-725-1481 (work) or 509-721-0277 (cell) if you have any questions or need any further information about the REC or about anything else!

Sincerely, 

Jim Kowalkowski  
Superintendent – Davenport School District  
& Director – Rural Ed. Center

Attachments





## Rural Education Center - 2016 Legislative Platform

Established in 1987, the Rural Education Center is a statewide cooperative of small and rural school districts committed to achieving the highest quality of learning on behalf of children in our schools. REC is committed to provide support services to small and/or rural school districts in the State of Washington and to assist them in carrying out their individual district missions.

### We request that the 2016 Washington State Legislature commit to the following:

- ♦ Support the continued implementation of the new basic education finance system as adopted in ESHB 2261 (2009) and maintain the funding phase-in schedule as adopted in SHB 2776 (2010), ensuring the new system will be completely implemented - with full and equitable funding - by 2018.
- ♦ Maintain local effort assistance (levy equalization) to protect students who reside in property poor districts.
- ♦ Ensure that small and rural schools will not be negatively impacted by “levy reform” legislation
- ♦ Provide incentives for teacher applicants for our small and rural schools
- ♦ Acknowledge current innovations and cooperative efforts on the part of school districts and take actions that incentivize innovation and cooperation moving forward.
- ♦ Recognize and support the important contributions that small and rural school districts make to local communities and to local, and the State’s, economies. The small investment that the State makes to provide a small school funding factor assures equitable opportunities for students that help prepare them for success at the postsecondary level and in the world of work.
- ♦ Provide full funding for any and all new requirements or mandates, including those from the State Board of Education. The legislative action to include Highly Capable into basic education without adequate funding is another example of an unfunded mandate.
- ♦ Recognize the importance of local control of school calendars and the needs of districts to provide some professional development during school days. Provide adequate state funding for staff development to restore and eventually increase Learning Improvement Days.
- ♦ Provide sufficient core funding to Educational Service Districts, and additional funding as needed, to assure the ESDs can provide continued support to school districts in key areas of current focus.

#### **The Rural Education Center**

Housed at Davenport School District  
801 7th Street Davenport, WA 99122  
Mr. Jim Kowalkowski, Director  
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#### **In partnership with...**





# About the Rural Education Center

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## Our Current Members

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### 70 School Districts:

Almira, Benge, Boistfort, Bridgeport, Chimacum, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Colfax, Colton, Columbia #206, Crescent, Creston, Curlew, Damman, Davenport, Dayton, Dixie, Easton, Eatonville, Entiat, Freeman, Greenwood, Great Northern, Harrington, Hood Canal, Inchelium, Kahlotus, Kalama, Keller, Kittitas, La Center, Lacrosse, Lake Quinault, Liberty, Lind, Mansfield, Manson, Mary Walker, McCleary, Morton, Nespelem, Oakesdale, Odessa, Onion Creek, Orient, Orondo, Palisades, Palouse, Pateros, Paterson, Pomeroy, Prescott, Queets-Clearwater, Quincy, Reardan-Edwall, Republic, Ritzville, Skykomish, Soap Lake, South Bend, St. John-Endicott, Starbuck, Stehekin, Steptoe, Tekoa, Tonasket, Touchet, Trout Lake, Valley, Waitsburg, Wilbur, & Wishram

### Organizations:

AWSP, ESD 105, ESD 112, ESD 113, ESD 123, NEWESD 101, North Central ESD 171, OSPI, WASA, WSSDA



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## Rural Education Center Meeting @ WASA Small Schools Conference

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 / 7:30–8:30 a.m.

Wenatchee Convention Center | Blossom Harvest Room (Upper Level)

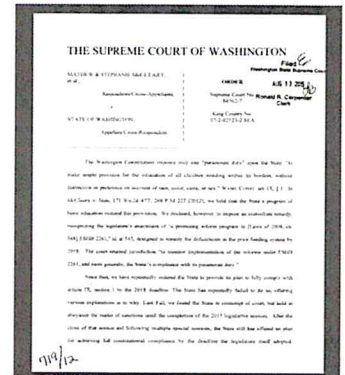
### Agenda

#### 1. Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions

- ❖ Dr. Jake Dingman, - Superintendent-Oakesdale School District & President, Rural Ed. Center
- ❖ Jim Kowalkowski, REC Director & Superintendent-Davenport S.D.

#### 2. Update: 2016 Legislative Session

- What Will the Final Budget Look Like?
- Will the Levy Cliff Happen?
- Impact of McCleary
- Levy Swap Swipe?
- Importance of Levy Equalization
- Charter Schools
- Compensation / Regional Salary Allocations?
- Funding Professional Development?
- REC Legislative Platform
- Facility Needs & Funding
- 6165: The "Plan to Fund the Plan that We Think is a Plan..."
  - You are strongly encouraged to read this entire bill...
  - Task force recommendations due to Legislature by Jan. 9, 2017
  - "A local labor market adjustment should be incorporated into the salary allocation model...must include considerations for rural and remote districts and districts with economic and distressing factors that affect recruitment and retention.
  - School districts must provide compensation data.
  - See page 3...



#### 3. Words of Wisdom from Dr. Gene Sharratt, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council

- Sharing his perceptive on: "End of Legislative Session, What's Ahead for 2016-17 & Beyond, and Some Quick Items of Interest."

#### 4. Addressing the Teacher Shortage:

- This is a significant issue for small and rural schools!
- Potential Research Study:
  - "What Attracts Teacher to Small, Rural Districts, and Why Do They Stay? Addressing Teacher Shortages in Rural Washington" – See handout
- We are certainly experiencing a "crisis"
- Sharing Best Practice: Dr. Dana Anderson, ESD 113 Superintendent: *The Public Schools Personnel Cooperative (PSPC) is offered through Capital Region Educational Service District 113. We appreciate your interest. The PSPC provides centralized recruitment services to over 34 school districts throughout Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties.*
- Other Strategies to Share:

#### 5. "Beyond McCleary"

- Need to Advocate for State Funded Professional Development:
  - HB 1345: "Adopting a Definition & Standards of Professional Learning
  - Passes House – 91-7, Passes Senate 45-3, On Way to Governor for Signature
  - Amount of Appropriation: \$0 / None / Nothing / Nada / Zilch / Zero / Zippo / ...
- Preserve Small High Funding
  - So far, so good...but is not protected under "Basic Ed."
- Advocate for our Small Schools
  - We have to "tell our story"!
  - We are small, yet mighty!

Trout Lake Iron Mustangs  
"Team 3711"



Education | Local  
**The Seattle Times**  
Bridgeport High is finalist for Obama speech  
Originally published April 8, 2011 at 1:27 pm | Updated April 8, 2011 at 8:22 pm





6. **Federal Legislative Update**

- ESEA Re-Authorized!
- HQT is gone!
- OSPI seeking input!



7. **REC Budget & Membership Update**

- ❖ Dr. Mike Dunn/Jerry McDermott/Cory Plager – NorthEast Washington ESD 101

8. **“Words of Wisdom” from ESD Superintendents & Guests**

9. **Receive Nominations for President & President-Elect** (vote to be taken @ June meeting in Spokane)

10. **WASA Smalls Schools Committee Update** –John Dekker

11. **WSSDA Small Schools Task Force Update** – Elissa Dyson

12. **Feedback from Members - “Round the Horn”**...Jake Dingman & Jim Kowalkowski

13. **Receive Nominations for President & President-Elect** (vote to be taken @ June meeting in Spokane)

14. **Announcements/Upcoming Events**

15. **Next REC Meeting**—@ WASA/AWSP Summer Conference – June-Spokane

Resources Included in File Folder:

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- ☐ “The Opportunity Gap in Rural Education: The Case for Rural Small Schools” –presentation @ Pave the Way Conference in Tacoma – Oct. 2015
  - ☐ ESSB 6195 – As Passed by the 2016 Legislature
  - ☐ Overview of Proposed Research Study: “What Attracts Teachers to Small, Rural Districts and Why Do They Stay? Addressing Teacher Shortages in Rural Washington”
  - ☐ REC 2016 Legislative Platform
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