

# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Accountability | Graduation Requirements | Math | Science

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253  
P.O. Box 47206  
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Olympia, Washington 98504

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 25, 2009**

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## State Board of Education Announces New Leadership

Olympia, WA – Jeff Vincent (Bainbridge Island) and Steve Dal Porto (Quincy) are the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Washington State Board of Education. The pair, elected independently during the Board's March Board meeting at Highline Community College, will serve for at least two years in their respective roles.

The elections end the two-year terms of former Chair Mary Jean Ryan (Seattle) and former Vice Chair Warren Smith (Spanaway). Both will continue to serve on the Board.

Jeff Vincent, the current Chief Executive Officer and President of the Laird Norton Company LLC. has more than 30 years of business experience in such roles as CEO, CFO, and corporate development officer.

"It's an honor to work with the State Board on issues that will directly and positively affect students in Washington for the next decade," said Jeff Vincent.

Steve Dal Porto has been directly involved in the education of Washington public school students for 33 years as an elementary, junior high, and high school teacher; an elementary and junior high school principal; an assistant superintendent with duties in curriculum development, professional development, and business management; and as superintendent of schools. Steve Dal Porto was elected to the State Board of Education by Eastern Washington school board members after he retired as a school superintendent in July 2005.

"We have important work ahead of us," said Steve Dal Porto. "Our tasks of further developing statewide school accountability and implementing improved graduation requirements will require tremendous efforts on the part of all Board members. I am lucky to be part of this process."

Mr. Vincent and Mr. Dal Porto will guide the Board as they continue to work on a comprehensive statewide accountability system and the implementation of 21<sup>st</sup> century graduation requirements.

They will be joined by two new members to the Board's Executive Committee, Sheila Fox (Bellingham) and Jack Schuster (Ocean Shores).

Please visit the State Board of Education website below for more information about these Board members, highlights, Board messages, complete minutes of Board meetings, and other Board materials related to K-12 education in Washington State: <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/default.htm>.

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For More Information, Contact:

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