



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

*A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.*

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## Title: Executive Director Update

**As related to:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Goal One:</b> Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Goal Three:</b> Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Goal Two:</b> Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Goal Four:</b> Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system.
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b>

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**Relevant to Board roles:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System oversight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Convening and facilitating
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	

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### Policy considerations / Key questions:

#### Letter to the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel (SFCAP)

What issues should the SFCAP examine to support the Board's work? What questions should the SFCAP answer regarding ample provision of funding in response to the *McCleary* order?

#### Retroactive Parent-Teacher Conference Waivers

The Board has received applications for retroactive waivers for the sole purpose of conducting parent-teacher conferences from two school districts – Kelso and Walla Walla.

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**Relevant to business item:** None

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**Materials included in packet:**

- A letter from SBE to the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel
- A letter from Kelso School District stating that they are requesting a retroactive waiver of the 180-day minimum school year.
- A letter from Walla Walla School District stating that they are requesting a retroactive waiver of the 180-day minimum school year.

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**Synopsis:** At the request of OSPI staff, the Executive Director has sent a letter to the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel inviting them to examine school facilities issues pertaining to ample provision of funding in response to the *McCleary* order. The Board is receiving an update on this panel. The Board has received requests for a retroactive waiver for Kelso and Walla Walla School Districts. The Board is receiving an update and record of these requests.

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Kelso School District  
601 Crawford Street  
Kelso, WA 98626

Glenn Gelbrich, Superintendent  
360-501-1927  
glenn.gelbrich@kelsosd.org

February 7, 2017

Parker Teed  
State Board of Education  
PO Box 47206  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Teed,

I am writing to you today on behalf of our students and staff. With apologies for such late submission, we are requesting a waiver for parent-teacher conferences. We realize that we have made a mistake. This request should have been filed in advance of our calendar change, but was not. Please know the mistake was inadvertent and that we have changed our process and stewardship for calendar-related waivers to ensure such errors do not occur in the future.

Two years ago, we modified the manner in which we conducted parent-teacher conferences at the elementary level. Based on feedback from parents and faculty, we moved away from a week of half-days of instruction to setting aside three full days in the fall and a single day in the spring. Our mistake was that we did not complete a waiver application prior to implementation during the 2015-2016 school year. We used four of instructional days in that year and have used the three fall days again this year. A fourth parent-teacher conference day is scheduled for our elementary schools on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

We apologize for the error and seek the attached waiver retroactively. We are also seeking permission to hold that March 13<sup>th</sup> elementary parent-teacher as scheduled.

**These days were used exclusively for parent-teacher conferences. Our average K-12 average instructional time for both last year and this year exceed the 1,027 hour minimum requirement.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Glenn Gelbrich

**Attachments:** Waiver Application  
School Board Resolution  
2015-2016 Calendars<sup>1</sup>  
Calculation of 2015-2016 Instructional Time  
2016-2017 Calendars<sup>1\*</sup>

*\*Explanation of 2016-2017 make-up days to recover instructional time lost to inclement weather  
Calculation of 2016-2017 Instructional Time*

*<sup>1</sup>We have one school (Wallace Elementary School) on a modified calendar, so two calendars are attached for each year.*



## Human Resources

364 South Park Street, Walla Walla WA 99362-3293 \* (509) 527-3000 \* FAX (509) 529-7713

February 8, 2017

Parker Teed  
State Board of Education  
PO Box 47206  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Parker.teed@k12.wa.us

RE: Parent-Teacher Conference Waiver (2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017)

Dear Parker:

Recently, it came to our attention that our 180-day waiver for parent-teacher conferences lapsed at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. We have inadvertently been operating under the assumption that the waiver was still active as it has been a long standing practice of our school district to conduct parent-teacher conferences on two full-days included in the 180-day school year.

Once the oversight was recognized we contacted the State Board of Education to take steps to correct the situation. We are requesting the two-day waiver retroactively for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. These days were and will be used exclusively for parent-teacher conferences.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Gardea".

Chris Gardea  
Assistant Superintendent

CG/ma



## THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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February 2, 2017

OSPI School Facilities and Organization  
600 Washington Street SE  
P.O. Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Attn: School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel

Members of the School Facilities Citizen Advisory Panel,

The Board would like consideration of the following issues as related to capital investment, and the state's ability to meet the basic education goals outlined in RCW 28A.150.210.

In the Supreme Court's 2014 order to the Legislature in the *McCleary* case, the Court seems to say clearly that the state must pay for the 'actual costs' of providing programs such as reduced class size and full day kindergarten programs. See the citation [here](#). There are two parts to this question. The first is what the current thinking is on the total price tag on capital costs associated with this responsibility. The latest cost estimate that the State Board of Education is aware of is shown on [this chart](#) –\$599 million. So far as we can tell, the legislature's response to this order was to create a competitive grant program. Our question to you is whether this \$200 million investment in the grant program constitutes an adequate response, and what a subsequent budgetary request should look like if the answer is no.

The second part of this question pertains to school facilities as a component of the program of basic education. It remains our understanding that state funding for facilities is dispensed on a local match methodology. This means that locals must have the resources to make an investment up front to receive state support for capital facility projects. Our question is whether a local match program is consistent with the idea that capital facilities, at least insofar as they are required to deliver lower class sizes and full day kindergarten (perhaps more broadly than that), is something the Court sees as an entitlement. Can a district be required to make a contribution if facilities is supposed to be a basic education entitlement in that case? We would appreciate analysis of this question. We would also like to have a better understanding of how that \$200 million was dispensed (if that was indeed the only investment), and what remaining need there is, to the extent that is known and can be quantified.

The Board would also appreciate analysis and input on the question of the funding mechanism for capital facilities. Our understanding is that the formula is basically premised on individual component cost assumptions, many of which are out-of-date. For example, what is the construction cost of a square foot of instruction space? How much space does a modern classroom require, et cetera. We would appreciate knowing if other states encounter this same challenge in having costing assumptions quickly become out-of-date. How could or should Washington's

allocation model be modified to have built-in adjustments for inflation and other factors, in much the same way the state's compensation models do?

Beyond these questions, the Board would appreciate hearing from the Citizen's Advisory Panel about questions you think are of particular importance to the success of children, and how the Board can help elevate the profile of these issues.

Thank you for your service to this committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Rarick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Rarick, Executive Director  
State Board of Education