

Advocacy in Action

January 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Message on Advocacy
School Board Meeting
2016 Focus Day
Engaging on Legislative Issues
Opportunities

QUICK LINKS

[Bellevue PTSA Council](#)
[Bellevue School District](#)
[Washington State PTA](#)
[National PTA](#)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY

Happy New Year!

2016 is sure to be an exciting year in the advocacy realm. At the state level, fully funding Basic Education will be a significant focus of this upcoming legislative session, which begins on January 11. In our own District, some areas of work currently underway include:

- Expanding Social Emotional Learning throughout additional grade levels
- Planning for future growth in our schools
- Changing High School Start Times
- Building a culture of service within our School Board, and more!

This is an important time for parents to be engaged and have our voices heard. I am here to support you in engaging parents and connecting you to tools, resources, opportunities and information needed to inform your advocacy, whether at the district or state level. The Bellevue PTSA Council website will be kept up to date with legislative opportunities. A “Call to Action” email will be sent out when parent voices are needed for State level action. Make sure to check the website regularly over the coming months for updates and opportunities.

Thank you for the work you do on behalf of all students in our schools!

Sarah Butcher, Director of Advocacy

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 19 and February 2 at 4:00pm

WISC, Rainer Room

12241 Main Street
Bellevue, WA 98005

The Agenda and Board Packet will be posted [here](#) about one week before the meeting. As always, you can make public comment at the board meeting on issues of concern or you can email the board at board@bsd405.org.

2016 WA STATE PTA LEGISLATIVE FOCUS DAY

This is a key year for us to Stand Up, Speak Up and Show Up. Watch the Bellevue PTSA Council website, www.bellevueptsacouncil.com, for updates and resources for Focus Day, including postcards your members can fill out and send [here](#). Make sure to register and order a lunch [here](#).

Focus Day

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Olympia, WA

WSPTA Priorities for the 2015 and 2016 Legislative Sessions

1. [Funding McCleary](#)
2. [Create Positive School Climates Through Social Emotional Learning](#)
3. [Increasing Capital Funding](#)
4. [Increased Access to Higher Education](#)
5. [Breakfast After the Bell](#)

Also supported (listed alphabetically):

[Access, Equity & Opportunity for Students with Disabilities and Special Needs](#)

[Access to Health and Dental Care](#)

[Career Development and Training for Paraeducators](#)

[Closing Opportunity Gaps](#)

[E-911 Training for Youth](#)

[Equal Access for ELL Students](#)

[Family and Community Engagement](#)

[Improving Education Outcomes for Foster Children](#)

[Inclusive Special Education](#)

[Paid Sick and Family Leave](#)

[Playground Safety](#)

[Investing in Teacher Professional Learning \(CTWG Implementation\)](#)

[Regulating Child Restraint and Isolation in Schools](#)

INTERESTED IN ENGAGING ON LEGISLATIVE ISSUES?

INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING LEGISLATION OR LEARNING WHAT HAPPENED TO EDUCATION RELATED BILLS FROM THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION?

Here are some different resources for engaging on legislation:

- Engage in the WA State Top 5 Platform issues [here](#).
- Find education related bills [here](#).
- Special Education specific bills are [here](#).
- WA State Legislature page is [here](#). Learn how to comment on bills [here](#).

OPPORTUNITIES

THE BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS MANY ADVISORY AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COMMITTEES. LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM, HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND REVIEW MEETING MINUTES [HERE](#).

MID-WINTER REGION 2 PTA CONFERENCE IN BELLEVUE

February 23, 2016

5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Interlake High School

The classes offered at the conference will count toward elected officer 2015-16 training requirements.

PARENT VOLUNTEER NEEDED for the **K-5 Chinese Dual Language Instructional Material Adoption Committee**. The committee is charged with identifying a standard-based Chinese instructional material for the K-5 Chinese Dual Language Program. The committee will meet three times before June 2016. Each meeting will last two hours and will begin and end on time. After the initial meeting, the committee will decide on the next meeting date and time.

All applications must be received by January 15, 2016.

[Download Application](#)