

September NASSCED Monthly Newsletter - NEW!!!

Lou Miller <webmaster@nassced.org>

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To: NASSCED Membership <members@nassced.org>

Hello everyone - the NASSCED Monthly Newsletter for September is provided below. Thanks again to Michelle McGrath for all her hard work...

Welcome Back Esteemed NASSCED Members,

One day a very wealthy man took his son on a trip to the country to live a few days on a farm with a very poor family. His goal? Teach his son a lesson about what it means to be poor. Upon return the father asked his son, "So what did you learn about what it means to be poor?"

The son answered, "I learned that we have one dog, they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, they have a creek with no end. We have imported lanterns, they have an abundance of stars at night. We have a small piece of land to live on, they have fields that go beyond sight. We have walls around our property, they have friends to protect them" - A Buddhist Tale

A lesson from this tale can be found in the words of French novelist Marcel Proust. ***"The voyage of true discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes, but in seeing with new eyes."*** I decided to share this Buddhist tale for many reasons. The first centers around my own life, which you may be able to relate to. After being with my children a significant amount of time this summer, I often thought of packing them up and shipping them to Grandma and Grandpa's farm where I grew up. I knew it would teach them some lessons about life. And, as always, upon their return (yes, that means I do actually follow through with my threats), they shared with excitement how it was the "coolest" and how they can't wait to do it again!! Where I saw challenges, my children with "new eyes" saw opportunity.

And now, the tale's most prominent reason - serving as a timely reflection given everything that transpired in education and politics in 2011. The landscape across the world has surely changed. But as I led over 60 student and adult leaders from across WI this fall through an extensive strategic planning session focusing on leadership development in WI, I had to keep in mind that our focus cannot be on the past, but rather how we look at the changing landscape and advance our mission to make a difference in the lives of students and schools. I hope the 2011-12 school year provides you with a "new set of eyes" and finds you taking the challenges of 2011 and turning them into opportunities of 2012! I know that will be our focus here in WI!

Now I know that "elections" were supposed to be the focus for September, I promise you - those "celebrity experts" will be featured and updates will be coming soon! I just wanted to get you something in September, and thought what we did in WI this fall with a strategic plan made sense for all of us - I hope you enjoy!

Strategic Planning – Wisconsin

The below strategic planning framework will provide the backdrop for my discussions. Ultimately, we, like many of your organizations take time to set goals each year, following the SMART goal philosophy, however, our governing structure always made it difficult to truly look into the future and wrap ourselves around a more far reaching strategy. Given the tumultuous times in school funding and education, I knew we needed to do more to protect the vibrancy of our association and the programs we offer.

Welcome to our strategic planning process. Since, we don't have any money, I did what we all do "phoned a friend"! I worked with a fellow colleague from Rotary who does this with fortune 500 companies and a WASC

alumni to propose a strategic planning structure and work with our groups to move forward in the process!

Over the summer, we met with our Executive Committee, which included 2 adult advisors, 2 middle school officers, and 2 high school officers and completed the first process – defining our mission, establishing clear and concise values, performing a S.(Strengths) W.(Weaknesses) O. (Opportunities) T. (Threats) analysis, and defining what we would look like in 2018 as an organization. Before meeting however, we needed to poll our membership, meet with camp staff, parents, delegates, etc. to lead us in the direction of these items. Once completed, we put together our process for working with the entire Board, including representatives from all of our committees, parents, administrators, etc. to truly diversify our discussions. During a 2 day retreat we finalized our strategies and are now in the process of writing goals for those strategies for 2012 and 2016. I've attached a copy of parts of our Governing Board retreat Power Point for you to gauge more about the process and what we hope to become in 2018!

Our WASC friends that helped us with this endeavor both shared how amazed they were with the efforts of the students. They both have worked with numerous businesses that often take months to accomplish what the kids did in a matter of a weekend! And that they left the retreat, EXCITED about coming up with goals for each of the strategies that THEY would need to spearhead! We all work with amazing kids and including them in such important discussions like this are crucial for our development as organizations and their personal leadership development. I could talk for hours about the process, what transpired, and what lies ahead for the future of WASC! Please let me know if you'd like any more information!

Upcoming Events:

Online registration for our upcoming **NASSCED Winter Meeting**, which will be in Salt Lake City on December 1-2, is now open. Online NASSCED membership registration for 2011-2012 remains open at this time. We encourage you to complete both as soon as possible, so that final plans can be made for our time together in Salt Lake this December.

You can use the links below, or access it in the left sidebar of any page on the NASSCED website at www.nassced.org.

WINTER MEETING:

<https://njasc.wufoo.com/forms/nassced-winter-meeting-2011/>

2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP:

<https://njasc.wufoo.com/forms/nassced-membership-20112012/>

If you are staying for the NAWD National Conference on Student Activities, registration is open for that event as well at www.nawd.com.

Hope you are having a great start to the school year! Looking forward to another fabulous year ahead!

Michelle

Michelle TerMaat-McGrath, Ed. D

Executive Director

Wisconsin Association of School Councils

4797 Hayes Road Suite 202

Madison, WI 53704

(V) [608-241-7107](tel:6082417107) (F) [608-241-7139](tel:6082417139)

www.wasc.org

2 attachments



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2011StrategicPlan.pdf
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