WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

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Council Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026
Virtual

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name): Jeff Charbonneau, Ruben Flores, Miles Parker, Chris Reykdal, Heather Tow-Yick, Jeff Vincent, and Monica "Monyu" Yu

Member Delegate Attending (Alphabetically by last name): Sheila Steiner, Jamie Traugott, Rebecca Wallace

Staff Attending (alphabetical by last name): Natalie Alvarado, Joel Anderson, Joel Bentley, Rita Chang, Abby Chien, Carlie Curlee, David Davis, KC Deane, Crystal Hall, Kimberly Hetrick, Anton Jackson, Amy Keltner, Isaac Kwakye, Hannah Lodwick, Ellen Matheny, Michael Meotti, Lucas Minor, Grace Nelson, Inez Olive, Daniel Oliver, Armen Papyan, Kathie Pham, Amy Roach, Isaac Rodriguez, Abby Roth, Stacia Schiebein, Colleen Scoville, Rathi Sudhakara, Katie Tallman, Yaslin Torres-Pena, Shannon Venezia, Sarah Weiss, Rashel Wise

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Consent of the Agenda
Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion seconded.
Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes
Motion made to approve the May Council Meeting Minutes.
Motion seconded.
Motion carried.

Chair Report
Presenters: Jeff Vincent

- Isaac Kwakye was named as the Acting Executive Director upon Michael Meotti's retirement.
- The search process is under way in coordination with the Governor's Office and a search firm.
- The step-by-step process of the hiring timeline was explained, along with a goal to have a permanent Executive Director by January 2027.

Questions and Comments:

- Are applications still being accepted? Yes, applications will be accepted through the week [of August 17]. If anyone knows of a good candidate, connect with Jeff Vincent.

Recognition of Michael Meotti

- A letter from the Governor commending Michael Meotti's accomplishments was shared.
- Washington Student Achievement Council Resolution highlighting Michael Meotti's impact on Washington was read by Jeff Vincent.
- Various Council Members and WSAC Staff spoke about Michael Meotti's influence on Washington.
- Michael Meotti shared his thoughts about his time with WSAC and his career.

Executive Director Update

Presenter: Amy Keltner

- Education and training after high school are critical pathways for economic mobility. Affordability is a big part of whether these pathways feel possible. Completing the FAFSA or WASFA is a step that unlocks aid for those students.
- Campaign goal updates included:
    - exceeding the FAFSA and WASFA completion rate goals,
    - an increased completion rate among Free and Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) students,
    - making headway into shrinking the completion gap between FRPL and non-FRPL students, and
    - narrowing the completion equity gap.
- Highlighted the importance of looking through a regional lens. Different communities have different needs, assets, and barriers, and our strategies need to be tailored to support their context.
- Early insights included: progress is not linear as variables can change year over year, the important role of trusted community partnerships, the strides priority schools have made, and the impact of FAFSA filing on postsecondary enrollment.
- Shared about the continued work on the current campaign through September, and what kind of supports are being provided.
- Previewed the next campaign for 2026-27.

Questions and Comments:

- Gratitude for the work that has been put into this campaign.
- Grateful for the work that is being done and able to see the results directly in the schools.
- Looking forward to finding more ways to partner moving forward.

Legislative Update
Presenters: Joel Anderson
Materials: 2027 Legislative and Budget Proposals

- One proposal aims to increase financial aid completion and postsecondary enrollment. This would build on work done over the past year on the *Washington Completes FAFSA Campaign*.
- This proposal would complement other efforts across the state.

Questions and comments:

- Is this proposal being put forward to align with work already going on? This is being put forth by WSAC, with input from other institutions.
- What is the impact on undocumented students in data collection, and the possibility that it could draw unneeded attention to them? Documented status was not one of the characteristics that were collected. Looking more at the geographic location. Protecting students is one of our priorities, regardless of their status.

Motion Made to Support the FAFSA/WASFA Completion Decision Package
Motion Seconded.
Motion Carried.

No Public Comment

Motion Made to Adjourn Meeting.
Motion Seconded.
Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Appendix A

August 11, 2026, TVW Meeting Recording

Appendix B

Meeting chat record from Zoom

00:12:22 Executive Office: Good morning everyone! Thank you for joining us. Please utilize the chat feature to introduce yourself.

00:12:29 Executive Office: Crystal Hall, Council Staff

00:13:38 Lucas Minor: Luke Minor, WSAC staff

00:13:42 Joel Bentley: Good morning, Joel Bentley, WSAC staff.

00:13:45 Rathi Sudhakara: Rathi Sudhakara (she/her), WSAC staff

00:13:52 Shannon Venezia: Shannon Venezia, WSAC Staff

00:13:58 Abby Chien she/her | WSAC: Good Morning, Abby Chien, WSAC staff 🙂

00:14:03 Sarah Weiss: Good morning, all! Sarah Weiss, WSAC staff

00:14:04 Katie Tallman (she, her) | WSAC: Good morning! Katie Tallman, WSAC staff

00:14:05 Jamie Traugott|SBCTC: good morning Jamie Traugott, Director of Student Services & K12 Alignment at SBCTC-filling in for Nate Humphrey

00:14:09 Hannah Lodwick: Hannah Lodwick, WSAC staff

00:14:19 Armen Papyan: Armen Papyan, WSAC Staff

00:14:24 Amy Keltner: Amy Keltner, WSAC staff

00:14:26 Daniel Oliver: Dan Oliver, WSAC staff

00:14:30 Ellen Matheny: Good Morning! Ellen Matheny, WSAC staff

00:14:33 Joel Bentley: Materials for today's meeting can be found on our Council Meeting webpage: https://wsac.wa.gov/council-meetings

00:14:38 Maxine Latterell: Maxine Latterell, Sen. Nobles ELA!

00:14:43 Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: Joel Anderson, WSAC staff!

00:14:44 Maria Rebecchi: Good morning! Maria Rebecchi, College Success Foundation

00:15:04 Vickei Hrdina: Good Morning, Vickei Hrdina - Director of College and Career Pathways & Partnerships at ESD112

00:15:19 Rebecca Wallace: Becky Wallace, OSPI

00:15:34 Inez Olive: Inez Olive, WSAC

00:15:42 Nancy Chamberlain: Good morning all - Nancy Chamberlain, WSPTA

00:15:50 Colton Kaltenfeldt: Good morning! Colton Kaltenfeldt, SBE

00:15:59 Gretchen Maliska: Good morning. Gretchen Maliska, Director of Career Connected Learning, Shelton School District

00:16:07 Carlie Curlee (she/her) | WSAC: Morning! Carlie Curlee (she/her), WSAC staff

00:17:37 Alyson Rotter | Olympic College: Good morning, Aly Rotter, Associate Dean, Outreach & K12 Partnerships at Olympic College.

00:18:46 Stacia Schienbein: Stacia Schienbein (she/her) | WSAC staff

00:19:04 Dawn Gering: Good morning, Dawn Gering, LaunchNW, Mpower Program Success Officer

00:23:09 Sheila Steiner: Sheila Steiner, Independent Colleges of Washington

00:53:30 Hannah Lodwick: Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!

00:54:13 Joel Anderson (he/him) | WSAC: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with ❤️

00:54:14 Ruben Flores: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with 😂

00:54:29 Rathi Sudhakara: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with ❤️

00:55:11 Abby Chien she/her | WSAC: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with 💯

00:56:57 KC Deane: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with 😂

00:58:56 Crystal Hall: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with 😁

01:13:54 Michael Meotti:my computer equipment has decided to die on the way out the door. just after Isaac started the presentation, my laptop froze creating a loud buzzing noise. so i rebooted, but it doesn't recognize my camera. at least it's timing was good for the retirement show! My wireless keyboard died yesterday and my wireless mouse did the same this morning. but i can hear you and see the slides and I think my microphone works if necessary

01:14:31 Ruben Flores: Reacted to "my computer equipment has decided to die on the way out the door. just after Isaac started the presentation, my laptop froze creating a loud buzzing noise. so i rebooted, but it doesn't recognize my camera. at least it's timing was good for the retirement show! My wireless keyboard died yesterday and my wireless mouse did the same this morning. but i can hear you and see the slides and I think my microphone works if necessary" with 👍🏽

01:14:34 Monica "Monyu" Yu: Reacted to "my computer equipment has decided to die on the way out the door. just after Isaac started the presentation, my laptop froze creating a loud buzzing noise. so i rebooted, but it doesn't recognize my camera. at least it's timing was good for the retirement show! My wireless keyboard died yesterday and my wireless mouse did the same this morning. but i can hear you and see the slides and I think my microphone works if necessary" with 👍🏽

01:18:54 Michael Meotti:switched to a different laptop so appears all is working

01:23:43 Carlie Curlee (she/her) | WSAC: Reacted to "Will always pronounce WSAC "wasick" in your honor!" with 😂

01:23:57 Crystal Hall: Reacted to "switched to a different laptop so appears all is working" with 👍

01:25:56 Sarah Weiss: Would love to connect with anyone interested in joining the campaign work and discuss, coordinate, and partner! sarahwe@wsac.wa.gov

01:26:10 Ruben Flores: Reacted to "Would love to connect with anyone interested in joining the campaign work and discuss, coordinate, and partner! sarahwe@wsac.wa.gov" with 👍🏽

01:26:23 Sarah Weiss: Great to see so many familiar names and faces in the virtual room, too!
01:26:42 Sarah Weiss: Please join us! Meeting Registration - Zoom