

# Washington Council Summer 2025 Board Meeting Agenda

June 24 & 25  
Wenatchee, WA

[ZOOM](#)

## **Attendance:**

Anne Molenda  
Kelsey Myers  
Brain Spraggins  
Cheyanne Robertson  
Claire Silva  
Guillermo Espinosa  
Heidi Youseph  
Jamie Traugott  
Jason Yi  
Leigh Jewett  
Megan Cooley  
Melody Ferguson  
Sarah Weiss  
Sheila Steiner

DAY ONE - TUESDAY, June 24, 2025

## **12:00pm – General Board Meeting Begins**

*Lunch is provided for Board members at the start of the meeting*

- Welcome and Introductions
- **Review of Meeting Procedures** – Heidi Youseph (Board president) informed everyone about the information regarding meeting support documents now being available in the shared Google file. The meeting minutes from the previous meeting (Winter) were approved via email.
- Update on approval of minutes from last meeting via email
- Approval/Edit of Agenda (Secretary) *FAFSA Completion for HS Seniors*
- **Executive Secretary** – Updating of Roster, Housekeeping, Reimbursement and Evening Plans – HS reimbursement for meeting expenses: please access the Google file, complete the form, and send to Wendy Peterson. 25-26 Board membership will go live in Eventbrite July 21, 2025. (Megan Cooley volunteered to change the date to July 1, when it was originally desired).

## **12:30pm – Executive Board Reports and Updates**

- **President, Past President, President Elect, Treasurer, Technology, Equity & Diversity**
  - Past President – Heidi, on behalf of Jennifer, shared the promotional materials for WA Council, encouraging members to take them to share with people/constituencies who may want/need to know more about the Council.

Melody Ferguson is going to add a PDF version of the document to the shared Google file for all to access.

- Technology – Winter/Spring – Julie Garver converted paper documents associated with Washington Council into a digitized format, disposing of the paper copies according to the agreed upon plan. Julie also maintains the Council website and is available for supporting work surrounding web posts as necessary.
- Treasurer – Heidi, on Wendy Peterson's behalf, noted we will discuss, as a Council, the state of our finances. We are currently operating in a deficit and will need to address this issue in short order.
- Membership – Anne, on Susan's behalf, shared that Cheyenne Robertson is to be voted on as a new member on day two of this meeting (new from EWU). Molly Brown, Wendy Peterson, and Myndee Ronning are slated to continue on, contingent on tomorrow's Board vote. Andrea Frangi took a new position with another institution and resigned from the Council (new role did not align with the Council). As a Council, we are still looking for: 2-3 baccalaureate representatives, 1-2 community/technical college representatives, and 1 high school representative (have one candidate who has expressed interest from the east side of the state).

#### **1:00pm – Agency/Organization Reports and Updates**

- State Board of Education (SBE) - *Alissa Muller* – Alissa was not available to provide a report.
- **Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) – Sarah Weiss (“Weiss is Nice!”)**
  - Sarah noted education is in a difficult spot in terms of the environment (budget and otherwise). She began her presentation with specific legislative items of import. (SB 5785 - New WA Grant income eligibility thresholds for 25-26; reduction in award amounts for WA Grant and College Bound Scholarship at private baccalaureates; no awards for for-profit 2-year/4-year. There are other changes coming that are noted in Sarah's handouts, and these changes are to be staggered over the next two years – 2025-27) Sarah shared information on WSAC financial aid privacy notice as an information/resource item. “Enrollment, Affordability, Completion, Student Supports” represents WSAC's strategic framework and how the agency is framing/communicating its work in relation to the 2025 legislation impacting post-secondary education. Sarah provided a policy development timeline of WSAC's work, as the agency depends on stakeholder input when crafting its policy goals and directions. Sarah spoke to two dashboards: *FAFSA Completion for HS Seniors* and *FAFSA Filers*. Updates to the *FAFSA Completion for HS Seniors* dashboard will include FAFSA data broken down by WIAA categories (something high school principals wanted to see). WSAC utilized a three-pronged approach to boosting FAFSA/WASFA completion with its priority schools toward the year-end (2025). (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)
- **State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) – Jamie Traugott** – Jamie shared staffing updates, including the addition of Nate Humphrey as the New Executive Director (a person who returns to the agency after a previous stint). Jessica Perez

is a new policy associate, focused on financial aid compliance. Pilot work continues for financial aid outreach to high school students in key communities (Wenatchee Valley College and Big Bend Community College). Federal TRIO Programs and Perkins are on the chopping block for potential cuts. Even if these programs aren't cut, the parameters under which institutions must accept them may change ("Terms and Conditions"). *WorkFirst*, *Basic Education for Adults*, and *Basic Food Employment Training* may also be impacted on the Federal level. SBCTC is considering a formal council to facilitate the ongoing work around dual enrollment/credit. Jamie provided an update on the College in the High School Alliance Grant—an effort to help more accurately define what dual enrollment/credit in WA state looks like. (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)

- **Council of Presidents (COP) – Julie Garver** – Jamie Traugott, on behalf of Julie, reported out. COP/Gates Foundation have a grant to pilot an electronic transcript system that would give post-secondary institutions the ability to proactively *collect* student transcripts. The *theory* of its conception seems to be a few steps ahead of the *practical* application, and the work group doing this work would benefit from expansion to more front-line practitioners. In its ideal form, for example, it would allow colleges/universities to go into a database and grab final high school transcripts. COP, ICW, SBCTC (collaboratively) have drafted letters to the WA congressional delegation (Federal), advocating on behalf of higher education. (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)

- **Independent Colleges of Washington (ICW) – Sheila Steiner** – Sheila updated the group on the nature/character of the ICWs as well as the impact ICW schools have on state post-secondary degree attainment goals. She commented on the negative impact the impending College Bound Scholarship cuts will have on students attending ICW schools. (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)

## **2:00pm- Break**

**2:15pm - Commission on Inter-College Relations (ICRC) – Kelsey Myers** – Kelsey shared the new ICRC Executive Board position-holders for 25-26, as well as meeting updates/reflections. ICRC has added an interim winter Zoom to keep more current with ICRC work. Travel continues to be an issue due to budgetary issues, but ICRC is also committed to maintaining in-person meetings. Kelsey reported out a reminder on the OAR (Ongoing Articulation Review) Committee work, as well as an update around its budget and dues collection. To simplify things, ICRC moved to a *single* dues schedule that will be \$150 for institutions (2 meeting attendees) and \$50 for agencies. ICRC has also started a conversation regarding its handbook and the constitution of the board (*Is board membership for 5 years the best approach in the current environment?*). ICRC is working on reforming the DTA, and it is working its way through the various instructional bodies at the CTC level. (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)

## **2:30pm- Washington State College Fair work**

- This group has met several times to discuss developing a state wide college fair schedule. Does WA Council want to create a commission on the board to further this work? Sheila Steiner, Brian Spraggins, Megan Cooley, Heidi Youseph, and Julie Garver participate on this ad-hoc committee. Sheila shared a synopsis of the discussions to-date around a potential pilot program for coordinated WA state fairs. The Board discussed the concept, noting fiscal realities around budget cuts where WA Council could step in and provide this kind of service. The Board further brainstormed how, as a Council, we might advance this work. A motion was made by Guillermo Espinosa to create a new commission to facilitate the WA college tour, which was seconded by Melody Ferguson (“To establish a new WA Council Commission, the Washington High School College Fairs Commission, tasked with developing and implementing a statewide structure for high school college fairs”). The Council discussed slowing the process and keeping the work with the ad-hoc committee, inclusive of the current ad-hoc committee members. A discussion ensued. Heidi called the question, the Council voted, and the motion failed (unanimously).

**3:00pm – Event Reflection & Brainstorm – Small Group Commission Collaborations** *If you are not part of one of the identified Commissions below, please choose one to join to participate in the collaboration!*

- Fall Counselor Workshop
- CTC Transfer Fairs
- College Planning Days

**3:45pm – Large Group – Report Back and Start of Commission Updates** – The commission chairs reported out to the group relative to their session feedback.

- Fall Counselor Workshop – The FCW Commission discussed moving to CTC campuses to save money. It is also going to brainstorm other budgetary/cost-saving avenues to make the programs more affordable in our current budgetary environment (2026 AY). The in-person rate will *increase* for Fall 2026. There was a stated recognition that this program funds much of the other WA Council work. Megan also noted (for Fall 2025) that Maria Muto from OSPI may not be able to attend, based on budgetary concerns (state travel freeze). Claire Silva suggested asking high school counselors to provide their questions *ahead* of the sessions in order to help the college/university representatives properly prepare to answer them.
- CTC Transfer Fairs – Leigh Jewett updated the group on the process by which she has established this year’s program schedule. Leigh also expressed the need for more comprehensive WA Council promotional materials to help educate our constituents (especially those who pay for memberships) know/understand what the WA Council provides.
- College Planning Days – Melody provided an update for how the 2024-25 AY materialized and the thoughts/questions to which these outcomes gave rise—specifically, *Is there a different way to offer these programs?* Melody reported out on the that discussion, noting the possibility of focusing on the *college process* as

opposed to the institution-specific programs (i.e. college presentations) we currently utilize. She also noted the possibility of offering programs in May at colleges/universities that are on semester calendars.

#### **4:45pm – Wrap-Up & Reminders**

#### **5:00pm – Adjourn Meeting for Day**

#### **6:00pm – Evening Gathering (Optional)**

- [McGlenn's Public House](#) (Pizza/Burgers/Salads) located at: 111 Orondo Avenue, Wenatchee, WA It is about a 10 minute walk (.4 miles) from the hotel to the restaurant, for anyone wanting to stretch their legs and walk a little, we'll meet in the hotel lobby at 5:45pm.

## **Washington Council Summer 2025 Board Meeting Agenda**

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DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY, June 25, 2025

#### **8:30am – Agency/Organization Reports and Updates Continued**

- **Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) – Maria Muto (zoom)** – Maria noted that OSPI found the funding for the HSBP work in discretionary funding (a reference to Schoolinks implementation). Funding has been *reduced*, but the work will continue. Maria also noted there is a new HSBP supervisor. The OSPI budget has been significantly reduced, which will result in position reductions (e.g. retirements and open positions will remain open). Stephanie Thompson (Career Connect Washington) will no longer be with OSPI, as the funding for her position has been cut. Travel for OSPI will be extremely limited, so its presence at events will be reduced. (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)
- **Washington School Counselor Association (WSCA) – Lilia Hueso** – There is a new slate of executive officers for the WSCA. Lilia shared a list of WSCA Committees and outlined the work they do on behalf of Washington school counselors in the state. The Association's work was enhanced by numerous collaborations with other like-minded organizations throughout the state. **September 19-20** there will be a second WSCA conference in Spokane (in view of the first being so popular and well-attended). (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)
- **Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) – Andra Kelley-Batstone** – Andra is not available to give an update, but her handouts are in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.
- **Washington Financial Aid Association (WFAA) – April Tovar Villa** - April is not available to give an update, but her handouts are in the WA Council Summer Meeting

Google folder for more specific information. In the notes, we learned the FAFSA is on schedule for an October 1, release date. In the past, there was beta testing in which the College Success Foundation participated, but the organization's funding cuts may compromise that. Sarah Weiss noted beta testing may be open to *anyone*, so there may be students completing the FAFSA in beta mode before October 1.

#### **9:15am – Commission Updates (Standing and Otherwise)**

- **College Planning Days – *Melody Ferguson*** – See report out from yesterday above.
- **Commission on 8<sup>th</sup> Grade College Exploration Days - *Ellen Zambroski-Huls & Cheyanne Robertson*** – On behalf of Ellen, Claire Silva gave the report, noting EWU, GU, and Peninsula College all had programs (moving from one school to three host sites). Claire noted that Jennifer at EWU worked with a local bank to integrate a financial aid element into the program.
- **Commission on Transfer Advisor Workshop - *Molly Brown & Cheyanne Robertson*** - Cheyanne gave an update on the planned workshop (August 7) and the new advisor workshop (August 6). The program will be run via Zoom.
- **Commission on Dual Credit Programs - *Anne Molenda & Guillermo Espinosa*** – Anne reported out on a survey the Commission sent out to dual credit practitioners (K-12 and CTC) to assess what needs they might have around the work (educational/training topics). There was strong feedback to get support in learning how to form productive partnerships with higher education partners. Respondents expressed interest in mixed modalities (i.e. in-person and virtual) for trainings that happen quarterly. (Please see handouts in the WA Council Summer Meeting Google folder for more specific information.)
- **Commission on Equity & Diversity - *Currently on pause***
- **Commission on Publications and Communications – *Paul Seegert*** – No update
- **Commission on General Membership – *Myndee Ronning & Melody Ferguson*** – Melody provided a continuation of the updates from General Membership Commission. Myndee has a few people she is recruiting for potential board membership next year.

#### **10:00am – Hot Topics for Discussion**

- What's "hot" in the different sectors?
- What did we "park" from earlier in the meeting we want to come back to?
  1. **The WA Council Logo** – The current logo is not one that's easy to replicate. We discussed putting the Canva logo (from Melody Ferguson) into the Publications and Communications folder. (Claire Silva also offered to have her husband who is a graphic design/videographer professional take a look at it.)
  2. **Leavenworth Meeting Site** – We are too late to move the Fall meeting away from Leavenworth. And, because we are in a space of operating at a deficit two years in a row, the Board discussed altering our meeting modalities (i.e.

virtual vs in-person). The group discussed exploring alternate sites to hold the meetings that would cost less (potentially using a college/university space). There was broad support for keeping the in-person element, noting, however, the state traveling freeze may deepen. Megan Cooley suggested potentially moving the Winter *and* the Spring meetings for 2026 to Lacey to ensure the state agency partners (those for whom the state travel freeze will be most impactful) can attend. We briefly discussed ways to help off-set costs in view of our deficit operation (e.g. adding a per-person fee for *extra* people who attend the FCW). Megan Cooley suggested having the Council pay for the OSPI representative at the FCWs, noting how central that agency is to the audience Q&A element. Claire Silva suggested creating a survey to inquire about *why* people were not able to attend this Summer meeting. (Heidi indicated it was primarily an issue with the travel freezes.)

**11:00am – Old & New Business –**

- **Secretary Search** – We had several hundred applicants that Jennifer Nehus culled down to a list of 5 to interview with the search committee's help.

**11:30am – Adjourn Board Meeting**

- Megan Cooley made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Claire Silva.

**11:30am - Annual General Membership Meeting**

- Heidi called the meeting to order, and we moved directly into the annual Board membership agenda item.
- Leigh Jewett made a motion to approve the slate of renewal candidates (Molly Brown, Wendy Peterson, and Myndee Ronning), seconded by Jason Yi. The Board voted unanimously to have the slate of three candidates continue forward into new terms.
- Leigh Jewett made a motion to approve Cheyanne Robertson's addition to the Washington Council Board with a second by Guillermo Espinosa. She was approved by a unanimous vote of the Board.

**12:00pm - Adjourn General Membership Meeting** – Heidi adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.

**NEXT MEETING -**

Fall: November 4-5, 2025

Icicle Inn, Leavenworth

Winter: February 10-11, 2026

Holiday Inn Express, Lacey

Summer: June 23-24, 2026

Location TBD

**Small Group Commission Collaborations Rotation**

| Fall Meeting  | Winter Meeting   | Summer Meeting  |
|---|--|---|
|   |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transfer Advisor Workshop</li><li>• Dual Credit Programs</li><li>• Equity &amp; Diversity</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Grade College Exploration Days</li><li>• Membership</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• College Planning Days</li><li>• CTC Transfer Fairs</li><li>• Fall Counselor Workshops</li></ul> |