Wapato PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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# Wapato School Board Recognized as "State Board of Distinction"

CONGRATULATIONS to the Wapato School Board of Directors for once again earning the State "Board of Distinction" recognition from the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). Wapato School Board members include President John Francisco, Vice President Sarah Divina, Javier Vela, Lori Garcia and Lorenzo Alvarado.

The annual WSSDA Boards of Distinction program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. These standards promote proven leadership practices that support student achievement and help close opportunity gaps.

WSSDA highlighted the Wapato Board's work to strengthen student supports through elementary grade-level reconfiguration, expanded Dual Language and Ichishkiin language learning opportunities, and building community support for new learning environments. These projects include the new PACE High School, which opened this year, and the new elementary school currently under construction.

WSSDA praised the Board's commitment to helping students feel they belong, providing fair access to learning opportunities and supporting long-term student success. The association also noted strong evidence of careful planning, community partnerships and leadership focused on students.

All Boards of Distinction honorees will be recognized during WSSDA's annual state conference in Spokane November 19-21.

The Wapato Board's selection also puts it in the running for Board of the Year. Each year, WSSDA selects one board from each of three district-size categories, small, medium and large. The Boards of the Year will be announced during the state conference.