



An affiliate of the National Association of Elementary School Principals

## Wyoming's 2022 National Distinguished Principal

Mrs. Anne Marie Covey, principal of Washington Elementary School in Green River was selected as Wyoming's 2022 National Distinguished Principal. The 2022 celebration marks the 39<sup>th</sup> year that the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) has presented this prestigious award.

Anne Marie was nominated and selected by fellow principals through a statewide search process conducted by the Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, said WAEMSP Executive Director Kenny Jones.

Mrs. Covey is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, Lesley University and Denver University. She served as an elementary teacher and administrator from 1997 – 2007 in Colorado. She became the principal at Washington Elementary in 2007.

"Before the pandemic, principals earned the reputation as one



Anne Marie was surrounded by her husband RJ and her parents during the surprise assembly held on January 21 at her school, Washington Elementary, in Green River.

of the most trusted groups of leaders," said NAESP Executive Director L. Earl Franks, Ed.D., CAE. "Now, as they continue to grapple with uncertainty and challenges related to the pandemic, their devotion to their profession and their communities is even more evident as they strive for educational excellence and wellbeing for their students and staff. Our heartfelt congratulations and thank you to this class of NAESP National Distinguished Principals, who have shown that their dedicated leadership and passion for students and their communities will outshine any challenges that are thrown their way."

In October 2022, Anne Marie will travel to Washington, D.C. for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary and middle-level educators chosen by the states, the District of Columbia, plus private and overseas schools.



Bertine Bahige, Wyoming 2021 NDP, and Paul Wenger, NAESP President present Anne Marie with her award during our 2022 State Conference in Lander.

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Criteria for selection of the principals require that the honorees are active principals of schools where programs are designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations.

Mr. Craig Barringer stated “Mrs. Covey’s leadership has set a standard in our schools that is a model for all. Her district meetings, staff meetings, and other committee works is focused on student emotional and academic success, and she provides everyone a path to reach high achievement.”

Since 1956, the Wyoming Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals has served as Wyoming’s professional educational association and now represents 192 elementary and middle school principals and aspiring principals throughout the state. WAEMSP maintains close ties with the metropolitan Washington, D.C. based National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 18,000 members worldwide.

Anne Marie was presented a carnation by each of her students and staff after receiving her award.



WAEMSP State President, Dave Hardesty, and Federal Relations Coordinator, Kris Cundall were participating in NAESP’s National Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. along with the leadership of WASSP. They are pictured above sharing their stories and concerns with Senator Lummis on March 1, 2022. You all should be proud of the work they did on the behalf of all of you. Thank you Dave and Kris!!

***The mission of WAEMSP is to promote and support the improvement of education for all Wyoming children through effective educational leadership***



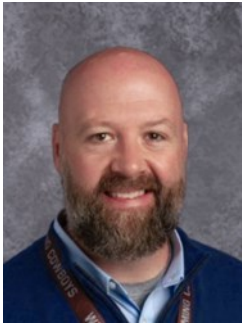
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## WAEMSP Elections

### Spring 2022

During the week of March 8th WAEMSP will be holding its annual election of officers. We have two elected positions which are open this spring. During the general business meeting at our state conference we received nominations for our **State Vice-President and Federal Relations Coordinator**. Below are the bios for the principals who are running for these open positions.

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#### **WAEMSP Vice President**

##### **Nate Cassidy**

As principal at Buffalo Ridge Elementary, I am happy to have the opportunity to run for Vice President of our association. WAEMSP has given me so much, and it is an honor to be considered to give back to the association and the principals of the state. WAEMSP has been a part of my professional career for many years. I began as an aspiring member, and have been with the association ever since. I have been a co-president for the NE region for the last few years, and am happy to serve in anyway I can to help.

I began my career in education teaching 4th grade, and then made a move to 3rd. I have been an elementary principal for the last 11 years. 8 years at Rozet Elementary and 3 years at Buffalo Ridge Elementary, both in Campbell County. I have enjoyed the challenges of being an elementary principal with my favorite part being the relationships I have gotten to be a part of through this journey. Specific to WAEMSP, the relationships made through the association have proven to be more valuable than I ever thought they could be.

As vice president of WAEMSP, I would be happy to continue the work that has been so successful over the years, and to keep it as a resource that supports principals in all areas.

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#### **WAEMSP Vice President**

##### **Anne Marie Covey**

I am excited about the possibility of serving as your WAEMSP Vice President. I have had the honor of serving on the executive board in the role of secretary since 2019 and a member of the association for the past 15 years.

This is my 25th year in education and of those 25 years, 19 of them have been as an elementary principal. I spent my first ten years as an elementary teacher, instructional facilitator, and elementary principal in Colorado before returning home to Wyoming, where I was born and raised. I received my bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado in elementary and middle school education, my master's degree from Lesley University in curriculum and instruction, and my administrative endorsement from Denver University.

Education is my passion and I can't imagine doing anything else. I believe it's a privilege to get to do what I do everyday. The students of Wyoming are our future and the work we do is critical to their success. Over the past 15 years, as a member of our association, I have benefited from the amazing conferences and professional development opportunities to the collaborative relationships and support that have developed over the years with such dynamic and talented principals across the State of Wyoming. We are very fortunate to have such a strong association and I feel very privileged to be a member. I hope to be able to continue to support and serve the dedicated members of our association.



## **WAEMSP Vice President**

### **Curt Mayer**

Hello to my fellow Principals. I am very fortunate and honored to be able to run for Vice President of the WAEMSP Executive Board. I am a life-time resident of Wyoming and could not be more proud to call this amazing State my home. My wife Nadine and our four children Kinley, Ryder, Cabre and Cru love the outdoors and everything that beautiful Wyoming has to offer.

I began my career in Laramie as a Physical Education and Health teacher under the amazing Dr. Margaret Hudson. Along my Educational Journey I was given the opportunity to teach and coach in Worland and Sheridan. As a member of the SCSD#2 team I was able to be a major part of creating the Next Level Graduation Program which focused on helping and assisting all SCSD#2 students to get to their next level whatever it may have been. The Next Level Graduation Program was centered around 4 Pillars. Early Childhood, Community Engagement, Student Attendance, and Multiple Pathways to Graduation. As the Graduation Director/Coach I was able to develop unique relationships with all of the students to help them graduate and move onto their next adventures.

Upon completing my Masters in Educational Administration I was able to become the 5-12 Vice Principal at HCSD#1 in Thermopolis. This position allowed me to be part of an award winning PLC district and work with many great educators and administrators. With this experience and knowledge I leapt into becoming the Middle School Principal at Arapahoe and am currently in my 2nd year and have many goals and aspirations to make Arapahoe Middle School one of the top schools in the state.

I believe I have a tremendous amount of passion and experience to give to WAEMSP and would be honored to be on the board and contribute to all of you and utilize this opportunity to improve myself, my district and my community for the betterment of all stakeholders and the state.

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## **WAEMSP Federal Relations Coordinator**

### **Liann Brenneman**

I have been a lifelong resident of Wyoming. Following the completion of my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Wyoming I started teaching in Riverton in 1990. While teaching in Riverton I completed my Master of Arts in Special Education and Gifted Education at the University of Connecticut. I then moved from the classroom to the district position of gifted and talented educational coordinator. While in this position I completed the Principal preparation program at the University of Wyoming. In 2000 I took a position as the district coordinator for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant. A couple years

after the passing of my father I moved to Laramie and started my tenure in elementary administration. I have been an elementary principal since 2004. While in Laramie I completed my Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership (2010). Recently, in 2019, I moved from Laramie to Cheyenne where I have the honor of serving as principal at both Buffalo Ridge and Hebard Elementary schools. I have been a member of WAEMSP for 18 years. During these 18 years I have served as Regional Co-President, vice President, and now as state legislative representative on the executive board. In addition to my administration career, I serve in the Wyoming Army National Guard. During my time as a legislative representative and through my Army career I have had the honor of working closely with various committees in the legislator. I have gained experience on how to work with and understand the political world in our state and our nation. I believe my experiences have prepared me well for the opportunity to serve in the Federal Relations position on the WAEMSP Executive Board.



## **WAEMSP Federal Relations Coordinator**

### **Dave Hardesty**

Thank you for the opportunity to run for the Federal Relations position on the WAEMSP Executive Board. I have served on the board as a Co-President for the Southeast Region, Vice-President, President Elect and this year as President. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve our state and advocate for our principals and education system. Advocating for principals and teachers is an important role of the Federal Relations position. During our recent visit to Washington D.C. our group met with Representative

Cheney, Senator Lummis, and Senator Barrasso to share our stories and advocate for Wyoming educators. I look forward to the possible opportunity to continue this work on behalf of the WAEMSP members and the Executive Board.

I am currently in my ninth year as principal at Linford Elementary School in Laramie. Prior to my time at Linford, I taught sixth grade for five years and second grade for one year at Bain Elementary School in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I began my teaching career at Beitel Elementary School in Laramie, teaching second grade for two years. I earned my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and my master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Wyoming.

I am a Wyoming native with a passion for educating the children of our state. The work of this board and our association is vital to the continued success of our state's education system. I look forward to working with you all, as we work to support our mission.



## **WAEMSP Federal Relations Coordinator**

### **Daryl Michael**

I just wanted to take the chance to introduce myself as you consider me for the Federal Relations position. I am a midwestern transplant with a lot of family ties to Wyoming. I am a graduate of the University of Wyoming with degrees in elementary education, counselor education and an endorsement in school leadership.

My career began in Rock Springs as a school counselor at Sage Elementary. Sage Elementary was a great place to begin my career and grow as a professional. After seven years as a counselor, I moved to Lander as an assistant principal at Lander Valley High School. Working at a high school gave me the opportunity to develop a K-12 vision for education. After spending five years as an assistant principal, I became the elementary principal at Fort Washakie Elementary on the Wind River Reservation. I am in my second year at Fort Washakie.

During my time in Lander, I became actively involved in the secondary principals association and served on its board for 2 years. My main take away from serving on the board for the secondary association is the power of advocacy. Education is often under assault from every direction. Advocacy and educating our public officials is how we keep education strong in Wyoming.



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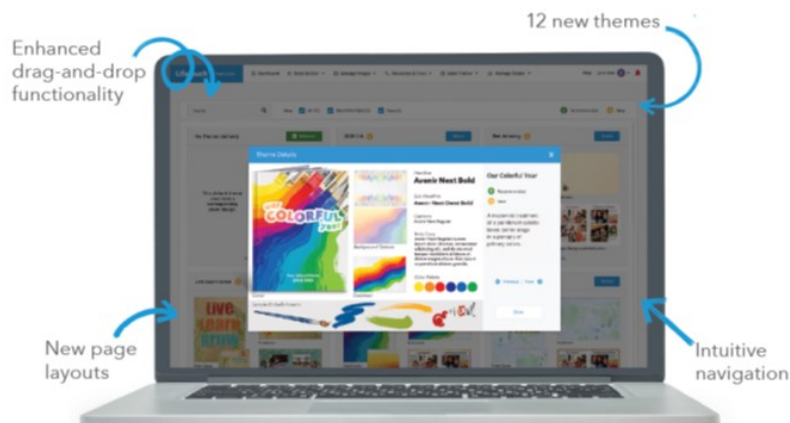
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