



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*An education system where students are engaged in personalized education pathways that prepare them for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning*

## COVER: TEACHER OF THE YEAR ROBERT HAND

Prepared for the May 2019 Board Meeting

Information item.

As related to:

**Goal One:** All students feel safe at school, and have the supports necessary to thrive.

**Goal Two:** All students are able to engage in their schools and their broader communities, and feel invested in their learning pathways, which lead to their post-secondary aspirations.

**Goal Three:** School and district structures and systems adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community, as a whole. Students are prepared to adapt as needed and fully participate in the world beyond the classroom.

**Goal Four:** Students successfully transition into, through, and out of the P-12 system.

**Goal Five:** Students graduate from Washington State high schools ready for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning.

**Goal Six:** Equitable funding across the state to ensure that all students have the funding and opportunities they need, regardless of their geographical location or other needs.

**Other**

Materials included in packet:

- Robert Hand's biography

Synopsis and Policy Considerations:

Each Year the Board recognizes the state teacher of the year. Robert Hand, 2019 Washington State Teacher of the Year, teaches Family and Consumer Sciences at Mount Vernon High School. Robert will present to the Board regarding his teaching experience, including his connection with the Recruiting Washington Teachers program, as well as what he's learned traveling the state during his time as Teacher of the Year, with a particular focus on policy implications related to the Board's work.



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### RESOLUTION TO HONOR 2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR MR. ROBERT HAND

Prepared for the May 2019 Board meeting

*In honor of Robert Hand* Washington's 2019 Teacher of the Year;

*whereas*, Mr. Hand teaches Family and Consumer Sciences at Mount Vernon High School and has taught Beginning Foods, Life After High School, Careers in Education, Nutrition, and Leadership;

*whereas*, he was instrumental in helping to develop an online curriculum for the Recruiting Washington Teachers program for the Professional Educator Standards Board;

*whereas*, his dedication to diversifying the educator workforce is evident to all;

*whereas*, he served as the advisor for the Social Justice Club as well as the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA);

*whereas*, Mr. Hand serves in numerous leadership roles including: participating on the School Engagement and Culture Committee as well as the District Equity Team in Mount Vernon;

*whereas*, he has taken students to national competitions where they have earned top honors for projects such as Nutrition and Wellness, Recycle and Redesign, and Advocacy;

*whereas*, he can be seen at his school between classes greeting students with a smile or a unique handshake he shares with them, to ensure each student feels known and appreciated;

*whereas*, Mr. Hand helps each of his students realize their full potential and develop the skills they need to be successful in high school and beyond;

*therefore be it resolved* that the Washington State Board of Education honors the outstanding work of Mr. Hand and other exemplary educators who remain dedicated to our most important endeavor: preparing all students for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning.

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Kevin Laverty, Chair



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### BIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT HAND, 2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Prepared for the May 2019 Board meeting

Robert began teaching Family and Consumer Sciences at Mount Vernon High School in 2013. He has taught Beginning Foods, Life After High School, Careers in Education, Nutrition, and Leadership. He has also been an adviser for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Social Justice Club. He has taken students to national competitions where they have earned top honors for projects such as Nutrition and Wellness, Recycle and Redesign, and Advocacy. Robert enjoys taking on new challenges and helping every student realize the potential he sees in them.

Robert is a bundle of energy and positivity. Between classes, music spills from his classroom, and he is in the hall greeting kids with a smile, a fist bump, or a unique handshake he shares with them. Robert makes a point to say hello to every student to make them feel visible and welcome. If you enter his classroom at any point in the day, you might find him teaching students how to deconstruct a chicken and make three meals out of it on a budget, teaching how to balance a budget, or teaching students about what it takes to pursue their dream of becoming a teacher.

Robert also takes advantage of any opportunity he can to perfect his craft and contribute to his school culture. He's been a member of the School Engagement and Culture Committee as well as the District Equity Team in Mount Vernon. He was also instrumental in helping to develop an online curriculum for the Recruiting Washington Teachers program for the Professional Educator Standards Board.

"Mr. Hand has gone out of his way to help students like us that encounter many barriers while trying to graduate from high school," says a former student. "Some of the barriers that I faced were not having English as my first language, living in a low income home, and being undocumented. However there is one other thing that made it harder for me to focus 100% in school - I got pregnant at 16. Any other teacher would have given up on me but Mr. Hand loves to get to know all his students to try to facilitate and nourish their learning experience. Mr. Hand got to know my struggles and did what a lot of other teachers didn't he actually acknowledged them. After this he didn't lower his expectations of me because he knew I was as capable as any other student who had the privileges I didn't. With Mr. Hand's support throughout high school I got to discover my true potential. When I enrolled in Skagit Valley Collage, I kept that 'I can do anything' mindset that Mr. Hand taught me. I am about to transfer onto a 4-year university and pursue a career as an educator. None of this could have been possible without Mr. Hand always being by my side no matter what."

The information above is from OSPI's [website](#). If you have questions regarding this memo, please contact Alissa Muller at [alissa.muller@k12.wa.us](mailto:alissa.muller@k12.wa.us).