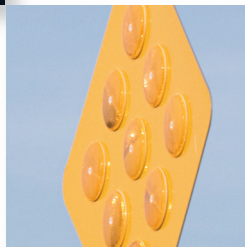


# FROM THE EDITOR

Beyond the 5 Ws and an H



Everyone knows the 5 Ws and an H and their role in storytelling. No story is complete without “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” “why,” and “how.”

But, 25 years ago, a university professor gave me a piece of advice I’ll never forget: No story is *truly* complete unless you answer two more questions: “So what?” and “What’s next?”

The “so what?” is obvious when you read the staff-written articles in this month’s issue—“Year One” by Senior Editor Lawrence Hardy and “What Is Your Plan?” by Senior Editor Naomi Dillon.

A roundtable with seven authorities in the field of public education, Larry’s story gathers a wide range of opinions on the work of President Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan to reform our K-12 schools. As the federal role expands, thanks in part to stimulus funding and the “Race to the Top” program, our roundtable participants raise a variety of concerns about the direction we are heading as they look into what’s next for public education.

Naomi’s story, which leads off a special report on issues around health and safety, looks at how various natural and man-made catastrophes can affect schools. From H1N1 to food contami-

nation to weather-related activities, it’s only natural for us to sit down and ask, “What’s next?” But, as her story shows, planning for the unknown is a nebulous yet necessary task that can save your district huge amounts of money and headaches if done well.

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Earlier this month, the judging panel for the 2010 Magna Awards was in our offices to go through the applications we receive from school districts across the country. This year, as has been the case since we started the program in 1995, Harold Fisher chaired the panel.

As evidenced by his ongoing participation with Magna, Harold is a longtime supporter of the magazine, its mission, and the work that school board members do each day. For more than 20 years, Harold served on his local school board in Mississippi; he is a former president of the NSBA board of directors.

Everyone who meets Harold will be quick to tell you that he is, first and foremost, a class act. We can’t begin to thank him enough for the work he has done and continues to do on behalf of schoolchildren across this country.

Thanks again, Harold.

Until next month ...

*Glenn Cook, Editor-in-Chief*