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Sen. Wagner appointed to lead Education Committee

Senator will lean on background in education in new leadership role

SALEM – Sen. Rob Wagner, D-Lake Oswego, has built a career on advocating for Oregon’s teachers, academic support professionals and students. Now, he’s taking another step in that work by leading the Senate Committee on Education.

Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, appointed Wagner on Wednesday to chair the Senate Education Committee, in addition to membership on the budget-writing Joint Committee on Ways and Means Committee and co-chairing the Ways and Means SubCommittee on General Government.

“This is an exciting time in Oregon’s history to chair the Senate Education Committee,” Wagner said. “It’s not good enough to fix a few things in education and call it good. We are looking for nothing short of an educational transformation in this state. We have a Student Success Committee that’s been touring the state and talking to people in all kinds of communities about supporting students.”

In addition to serving in the Legislature, Wagner is also a school board member, so that perspective certainly will inform his legislative work on education.

The General Government SubCommittee is responsible for setting budgets for government functions that affect all Oregonians, with a focus on promoting accountability, transparency and legislative oversight.

Wagner, who represents Senate District 19 – which includes Tualatin, Lake Oswego, West Linn, Rivergrove, Durham and Southwest Portland – has a background in public service. He started out as a legislative aide in the Oregon House of Representatives and spent a decade advocating for Oregon’s teachers, faculty, health care workers and academic support professionals. Most recently, he served as Associate Vice President of College Advancement at Portland Community College, overseeing community outreach and working to secure student scholarship funding.

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