



**News release**  
**February 3, 2020**

## **Everett school board member, Pam LeSesne, helps build school**

*LeSesne joined fellow school board members on Dominican Republic trip*

Director Pam LeSesne recently returned from a Memory Mission trip, won in a drawing from Lifetouch, where she helped construct an addition to the Cecaini Rio Grande School, in the Dominican Republic.



*Pam LeSesne with fellow school board members from around the country*

Originally built on a Memory Mission trip in 2016, the Rio Grande School had room for just 100 pre-K through sixth grade students. The addition, including a library, computer lab, medical infirmary and administrative space will make room for 40 more students.

In a Facebook live video LeSesne, along with a group of fellow National School Board

Association (NSBA) members from Georgia, Maine and Ohio, shared their expectations and experiences on the trip.

“I didn’t know what to expect and was surprised at the location, high atop a mountain,” shared LeSesne. Before the school was constructed in 2016, “most of the kids didn’t go to school because they would have had to walk five miles round-trip on a mountainous, narrow road,” she explained.

“We built walls, brick by brick,” said LeSesne. “We hauled and mixed cement, installed bricks and scraped and painted walls. The local workers were helpful and patient trying to teach us how to build their walls and their school.”

LeSesne added the trip was not only an opportunity building the addition, but also building community engagement and learning about kids in another part of the world. “Kids are kids no matter where you go” continued LeSesne. “They want the same things our kids want, an education, to persevere through challenges and to become responsible citizens in their community.”



*LeSesne installs bricks for the new addition*

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What especially warmed her heart was the generous donation of books, all in Spanish, from each of our Everett district schools that will help fill the shelves of the newly constructed library.



*Making lanyards with Rio Grande School students during recess*

“I would like to thank Everett Public Schools Board of Directors and all of our district schools for coming together and providing books for Rio Grande School, they are very appreciated,” gushed LeSesne.

Besides the physical work building the addition, LeSesne and fellow mission travelers also spent quality time with the kids, playing during recess, hanging out after school, and getting to know each another. LeSesne was moved by the warmth and happiness of the children and expressed she’d “like to be able to continue to do this for the kids, it’s wonderful.”

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**For more information:**

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