

Freshman Profile: Chad Magendanz

Chad Magendanz (pronounced like Häagen-Dazs) from the 5th Legislative District is serious about his work, family and education reform, but he laughed as he relayed his story about a short-lived encounter with the late Apple CEO Steve Jobs.

“I was asked to entertain Steve Jobs while he waited in the green room prior to going on stage for a Mac Office launch event. I didn’t last long,” Chad explained. “Could it be we Microsofties were a little dry for his taste?”

Not one to be nervous in front of a large crowd, he has given several speeches with Microsoft’s Bill Gates in front of thousands. His only disappointment is he never saw the Gates’ home. Chad has also presented to high-ranking military officials, Fortune 500 company CEOs and many others of notoriety, including Warren Buffet.

Though he’s rubbed elbows with the business and military elite, Chad is most proud of his family. His two sons and wife live in Issaquah where he has dedicated his time to ensuring the best education for all of Washington’s children. Most recently, he was elected president of the Issaquah School Board. He was instrumental in the landmark education reforms the Legislature will implement over the next few years.

He will serve as the assistant ranking member on the House Education Committee as well as being assigned to the Higher Education, Technology and Economic Development and Rules committees.

Chad is a competitor. A triathlete, he competes in races with his oldest son. When asked what he enjoys most about sharing the experience with his son, he jokingly replied, “Beating him because in another year, he will be leaving me in the dust. I have to enjoy these moments while I can. In all seriousness, it’s a joy to see both of my children grow into the strong, kind and independent people my wife and I hoped they would be.”

Chad earned an electrical engineering degree from Cornell and served 12 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He also worked 10 years as a full-time manager at Microsoft, where he earned more than 20 Microsoft patent awards, and has been a software design consultant for eight years.