

Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | April 17, 2018

2018 Bond - No Tax Rate Increase

*Facilities Task Force recommends
Option 1 following months of input*



Derek Sarley

“Don’t raise tax rates” was a message heard loud and clear by the Community Facilities Task Force during the community engagement phase of its nearly two-year study. This input prompted the 18-member group to unanimously recommend the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors proceed with “Option 1”, a \$65.6M bond proposal, on the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot.

This recommendation keeps bond tax rates the same as current rates. Walla Walla Public Schools pays off all existing bond debt in December and this proposal replaces the current tax rate, maintaining one of the lowest school bond tax rates in the county at \$1.23/\$1,000.

The Task Force has been studying two bond options since December, including a second proposal which would have raised local property tax rates by 15 cents per thousand. The Task Force decided on the no tax rate increase option after receiving data from a statistically reliable phone survey and through other community feedback mechanisms. More than 60 engagements were conducted during the Community Engagement Phase including Patron Tours, an open house event, advisory lunches, presentations and one-on-one meetings.

“We need to listen to the community, and even though our facility needs are great, the data is clear residents don’t want their taxes to go up.”

Derek Sarley

President, Board of Directors

“We need to listen to the community, and even though our facility needs are great, the data is clear residents don’t want their taxes to go up,” said School Board President Derek Sarley. “We have seen results from the statistically reliable survey administered by Citizens for Walla Walla Schools and 81 percent surveyed said they would support the no tax rate increase option.”

Voters will be asked to decide on a \$65.6M bond measure to renovate Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School and Lincoln High School. The bond would also fund other district-wide health, safety, educational and infrastructure improvements. The school renovation projects are eligible for an estimated \$52.6M in State Match funds. All State Match funds will be used to fund the voter-approved projects. Project costs will be carefully monitored by a Citizens’

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Board Meeting Highlights

■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the March 20, 2018 business meeting & executive session, Special meeting minutes of April 7-8, personnel report, issuance of certificated contracts and notification of reasonable assurance, April 3 & 17 accounts payables, March payroll, and March financial report.

■ Policy Approval . . .

- 2022 - Electronic Res. & Internet Safety
- 2023 - Digital Citizenship NEW
- 2024 - Online Learning
- 2100 - Educational Op for Military Children
- 2108 - Learning Assistance Program NEW
- 2153 - Non-Curr Related Student Groups
- 2163 - Response to Intervention
- 2165 - Home or Hospital Instruction
- 2170 - Career and Technical Education
- 2240 - Summer School
- 2333 - Flag Exercises
- 2336 - Required Observances
- 2411 - Certificate of Educational Competency
- 2422 - Homework REMOVE
- 4040 - Public Access to District Records
- 5201 - Drug-Free Schools, Com & Workplace
- 5401 - Sick Leave
- 5404 - Family, Pregnancy Disability and Military Caregiver Leave
- 5409 - Unpaid Holidays for Reasons of Faith or Conscience NEW

■ Enrollment . . .

April enrollment is 5703 FTE and on target with 2017-18 budget projections.

Developing Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Certificated:

MEGAN BEIERLY | SPEECH LANG PATH | SPECIAL ED

NATHAN DROSS | SPECIAL ED | PIONEER MS

Classified:

ROGER CONTRERAS | 21ST CENT. (TEMP) | BLUE RIDGE

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Certificated:

MATTHEW SHAW | ENGLISH | WA-HI, 12 YRS

Classified:

CLAIRCY CLIZER | CAREER OUTREACH | SEA-TECH, 8 YRS

DOUGLAS KLEIN | HEAD CUST. | LINCOLN HS, 36.5 YRS

KATHERINE SCHISLER | ADMIN SEC | T&L, 28 YRS

Leave of Absence:

ROGER CONTRERAS | PARA-ED | GARRISON MS, 3.5 YRS

- FOR REMAINDER OF THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR TO SERVE AS 21ST CENTURY SITE COORDINATOR

Volunteers of the Year



Laura Segovia, Jon Giard, Leslie Snyder, Ken Paine and Joe Drazen were named the Art Regier Volunteers of the Year. (Jon Giard and Leslie Snyder were not available to attend last night's meeting). These outstanding volunteers give their time and talents to enhance the school experience for students.

Bond Oversight Committee to enhance accountability

The Board requests Superintendent Wade Smith establish a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee comprised of 10 community members to carefully monitor the delivery of the proposed bond program to ensure accountability, fiscal transparency, and community trust. Applications are now being accepted until 4 p.m. May 11. Visit the district's Bond Planning webpage for an application and additional information.

Board of Directors Position #2 Vacancy

Last night, the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of school board member Jaenemy Perez de Luengas. In her resignation letter she thanked everyone for their support and said she is excited about the positive direction of the school district. She noted as a parent of three young children and the sole working provider for her family, she couldn't provide the adequate attention and time to fulfill her board duties. Interested citizens may apply by submitting an Application for Board Vacancy (www.wwps.org). Completed applications must be received by the District Office by May 9, 4:00 p.m. The term ends in 2019.

2018-2019 Budget Planning

Last night, the school board set targets to begin the 2018-19 budget development process. Enrollment targets will be scaled back to 5600 FTE to adjust for Willow Public Charter School transfers and a trend of smaller kindergarten classes. The district will also ensure \$2M is set aside to offset full McCleary implementation in 2019-20 when the levy is reduced from \$3.50/\$1,000 to \$1.50/\$1,000.

Blue Devil Strong update

Wa-Hi seniors Erin Gerola and Macy Quinn-Sears are leaders of Blue Devil Strong. This peer-to-peer leadership program aims to normalize the conversation around mental illness. They are busy planning the 'Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk' on May 10 from 8 to 9 p.m. at the Dave Klicker Track at Walla Walla High School.

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 7-11 is Teacher Appreciation Week. Superintendent Wade Smith read a proclamation honoring district educators for their service.

Gear Up Career Day

Becky Waggoner-Schwartz of GEAR UP reported the recent Career Day at WWCC for 8th graders was a success as students look to the future.

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Bond Oversight Committee. Any excess dollars remaining following the completion of the renovations will be returned to the taxpayers to pay down the bond debt.

The Community Facilities Task Force commissioned 15 independent reports, met 14 times, and spent more than 45 hours visiting sites and deliberating over the identified projects. "We were charged with finding cost-effective solutions for the district's most critical facilities needs and this proposal hits the target," notes Task Force Chair Paul Schneidmiller.

The Board of Directors accepted the report from the Community Facilities Task Force recommending Option 1 for the November 2018 Bond proposal. The school board instructed Superintendent Smith to proceed with developing the ballot language and a resolution for approval at the May 15 school board meeting.