

Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | April 18, 2017

Budget Planning Process

School board votes to put additional resources toward strategic initiatives

Another significant milestone in the development of a new five-year Strategic Plan was reached last night as school board members approved a budget framework to address critical needs determined throughout this year's planning process. The School Board directive authorizes increased funding in curriculum, technology, safety, behavioral support, student engagement and Latino student and family outreach.

"The Board directed me to strategically spend down about 1% of our ending fund balance reserve to target programs, activities, and enhancements next school year and beyond," said Superintendent Wade Smith. "These strategic investments were a direct result of the feedback from staff, parents, students and stakeholders during



Dr. Hampson

the near-six-month listening campaign that helped inform our strategic direction and plan."

The four consistent themes of high quality instruction, aligned and coherent systems, social and emotional needs and safe and engaging environments which surfaced to anchor the district's new Mission Statement are embedded in last night's funding decision.

"We worked hard to find out what the needs are of the district and we're listening to those needs and we are addressing those needs," said School Board President Dr. David Hampson. "This is what our district staff and community are telling us we need to do so I feel very good about the direction we have taken.

Highly Capable Recommendation Committee putting final touches on plan

Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea reported the district's Highly Capable Recommendation Committee is nearing the end of its work as it eyes May 2 to present program recommendations to the school board.

Conceptual plans are being tested by parents and staff centered on participant identification, professional development,

communication and coordination, experience enhancement and offerings.

Once the conceptual plans are approved by the school board, staff in the Teaching and Learning Department will work to put the ideas into operation.

Stakeholder feedback from the study will be used to help drive decisions. No action was taken last night.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the March 21, 2017 special board meeting and regular board meeting and March 24-25 special meeting, personnel report, out of state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, issuance of certificated contracts and notification of reasonable assurance, April 4 Accounts Payable and March payroll, April 18 Accounts Payable, March financial report, and request to move from WIAA District 5 to WIAA District 8.

Budget and Enrollment update . . .

Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan reported FTE enrollment for April is 5727, down 27 FTE from March. Cohan said he expects the district average for the year to be near the budget target of 5760 FTE.

Energy Management Update . . .

Energy Management Program Coordinator John Butenhoff reported the program helped the district save nearly \$500,000 in utility costs this year. The program is now in its 17th year and has helped the district save nearly \$6 million over the years.

Board position open in November . . .

School board member Cindy Meyer reported Position #2 on the school board will be open in the November General Election as she is retiring after 12 years of service. Sam Wells reported he plans to run for election again for Position #1.

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Certificated:

- YURI CAN | PIONEER MS (SPANISH)
- RACHEL GEITER | PIONEER MS (SCIENCE)
- JAZMIN LOPEZ | BILINGUAL ELEMENTARY
- YOLANDA MAYCUMBER | BILINGUAL ELEMENTARY
- LESLIE RODRIGUEZ | BILINGUAL ELEMENTARY

Classified:

- DAVID HARDESTY | TRANSPORTATION (BUS DRIVER)
- MICHAEL LEMKE | FAC. AND OPERATIONS (GROUNDS TEMP)
- HALLEY MCCORMICK | GARRISON MS (PARA-ED)
- YURI OROZCO DE CORPUS | PRESCHOOL (PARA-ED)

Coaching:

- JACOB BUTENHOFF | HEAD WRESTLING (WA-HI)

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT . . .

Certificated:

- TINA BRENNAN | BLUE RIDGE, 7 YEARS
- SARAH DAVIS SIMON | PIONEER MS, 1 YEAR
- HEATHER MICHELS | GARRISON MS, 1 YEAR
- WORKED 6 PREVIOUS YEARS AS A PARA-ED

Classified:

- ALFRED FULLEN | LINCOLN HS, 15 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE . . .

Certificated:

- DYLAN NELSON | SPECIAL ED, 1 YEAR
- .5 FTE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR 2017-18 - WILL SERVE .5 FTE SLP

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL . . .

- Chris Gardea to attend National Summit for Principal Supervision in Ft. Lauderdale, FL (Funding: HR Travel)
- Eric Matson to attend Geometry in Construction in Loveland, CO (Funding: Skills Center Travel)

Quote of the Week

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

Aristotle

Volunteers of the Year
Art Regier recipients put students first

In celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Month, Superintendent Wade Smith is proud to announce Sharon Gerbino (Berney), Karen Kelly (district music), Rhonda Applebee (Sharpstein), Sharon Carter, and Christy Cason (Berney) as the district’s 2016-2017 Art Regier Volunteers of the Year.

The Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award was instituted in 1991 as a memorial to “Grandpa Art” Regier. Regier, a retiree who devoted years of service to elementary schools in Walla Walla, epitomized the spirit of volunteerism in education.



PHOTO L to R: Superintendent Wade Smith, Sharon Gerbino, Rhonda Applebee, Christy Cason and Sharon Carter. Not in photo - Karen Kelly.

Duncan recommended for Pioneer MS principal

Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent Wade Smith is recommending the hiring of Kristina Duncan as the new principal of Pioneer Middle School. This recommendation will be presented to the Board of Directors May 2 to complete the official hiring process. Current Principal Mira Gobel has accepted a leadership position at ESD 123 in Pasco. Her last day is June 30. Upon approval of Superintendent Smith’s recommendation, Duncan will report to her new assignment July 1.



The district utilized a comprehensive applicant screening process to narrow a list of nearly 20 applicants down to three finalists.

“I am beyond honored and humbled to have been chosen as the next Head Principal for Pioneer Middle School,” Duncan said. “I look forward to helping this incredible staff continue to build a culture of rigor, support and love for the students in our valley.”