

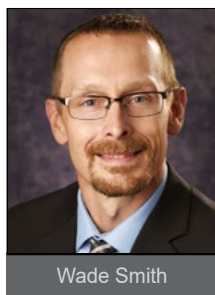
Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | May 1, 2018

2018 Budget Preparation

Post-McCleary: District seeks efficiencies over time as it adjusts to new era of less local levy funds



Wade Smith

The McCleary Decision, which pushed the state to fully fund basic education, has been a boon for local taxpayers as homeowners with a median-priced home are looking at a \$500 a year tax cut beginning in 2019. The savings comes through the 'Levy Swap' agreement which capped local levies at \$1.50 per \$1,000 to lighten the load for local taxpayers. The previous levy rate was approximately \$3.50 per \$1,000 in Walla Walla. This change creates a 'Levy Swap' gap for the district as the levy drops from \$11.3M in 2017-18 to \$5.3M in 2019-20.

The news for Walla Walla taxpayers only gets brighter going forward. Property owners will see the lowest school tax rates in three decades even if voters approve the November 2018 Replacement Bond proposal, which calls for keeping the bond rate the same.

Although McCleary has been good for taxpayers, Superintendent Wade Smith reported to school board members last night lowering local levy revenue has created operating challenges for districts like ours which had a sizeable local levy.

Smith outlined the district's plan to address operating in the post McCleary era. He said the reduction of levy resources and lack of sufficient offsetting new monies from

"We will continue to 'right size' staffing over time to better align to our new projected revenues. This can be accomplished without layoffs or elimination of programs."

Wade Smith, Superintendent

the state will require our district to gradually bring staffing allocations more in line with the prototypical school model in order to maintain competitive salaries and financial solvency. Smith said this process will be rolled out slowly.

McCleary Reality

Key messages from Superintendent Smith:

- No layoffs or elimination of programs anticipated
- Some vacant positions will not be refilled
- Continue to "right size" staffing and program models to better align with prototypical school
- Work cooperatively with WWVEA and PSE to propose legislative funding adjustments for WWPS to ensure adequate and necessary funding to maintain the level of programming our community desires for its children.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Apr. 17, 2018 regular business mtg, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, out-of-endorsement teacher assignment, Res. 01-2018 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2018-19, May 1 accounts payable and April payroll, and revised 2017-18 board meeting schedule.

Graduation Rates Update . . .

Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea provided school board members an update on the district's graduation rates during last night's Regular Study Meeting. Gardea reported our district's Vision of 'Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates' reinforces a strong commitment and expectation students graduate.

2017 WWPS 4 year rate: 75.1%

2017 State 4 year rate: 79.3%

• Target 4 year goal: 85% by 2021-22

2017 WWPS 5 year rate: 85.8%

2017 State 5 year rate: 82.4%

• Target 5 year goal: 90% by 2021-22

Gardea said our district is taking the necessary steps to ensure the targets are met, per the district's Strategic Plan.

- Closely monitoring course completion
- Course retrieval enhanced
- Expansion of summer courses
- Re-teach and assist time built-in

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Certificated:

ALLYSSA BARNETT | 5TH GRADE BIL | GREEN PARK
 MCKENZIE BOSTWICK | 3RD GRADE | SHARPSTEIN
 KATHERINE INGRAM | SPECIAL ED | GREEN PARK

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Certificated:

RHONDA CLEMENTS | SCH PSYCH | SPECIAL ED, 2 YRS
 MARY CORTINAS | HIGHLY CAP | SHARPSTEIN, 17 YRS
 CAITLIN DUNCAN | 1ST GRADE | BLUE RIDGE, 3 YRS
 ABIGAIL LUCKSTEAD | MATH/STEM | PIONEER MS, 2 YRS
 - ABIGAIL IS RESIGNING .33 FTE, CONTINUE .67 FTE
 DOUG POULSON | PE | GARRISON MS, 25 YRS
 RONNI TOBIN | SPECIAL ED | LINCOLN HS, 5 YRS

Classified:

BRITTNEY CUTLIP | PARA-ED | GREEN PARK, 3 YRS
 GERARD DUNCAN, JR | PARA-ED | LINCOLN HS, 1 YR

Quote of the Week

“You have to stay in school. You have to. You have to go to college. You have to get your degree. Because that’s the one thing people can’t take away from you is your education. And it is worth the investment.”

Michelle Obama

Curriculum Investment

Grades 6-12 new English/Language Arts Curriculum next year

The 2018-19 school year will start with a significant advancement in rigorous and standards aligned materials for 6th-12th grade English Language Arts thanks to a new curriculum adoption, according to Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis. In last night’s report, Krutulis and members of the Curriculum Adoption team recommended adopting SpringBoard for the district’s core 6th-12th grade English Language Arts materials. The school board will consider the recommendation at its May 15 meeting.

This proposed \$350,000 adoption is part of the annual \$500,000 investment toward new curriculum materials approved by the School Board during last spring’s Strategic Planning process. Extensive time over the last year was dedicated to this adoption process to ensure the district is providing students a rigorous and aligned learning experience K-12, according to Krutulis.

“It’s exciting to know teachers unanimously selected College Board’s SpringBoard materials as a critical next step for ensuring all students graduate from Walla Walla Public Schools with the essential literacy skills to be college and career ready,” said Krutulis.

Next Steps

- May 15: School Board votes on adoption of SpringBoard Core materials

Following Adoption:

- New materials ordered
- Mini-Chromebook carts allocated for each classroom
- Three days of professional learning in June and/or August
- 4th day of professional learning in Fall
- Sessions added throughout the school year

Green Park Principal says good-bye

Green Park Principal Gina Yonts is bidding the district farewell after 27 years of service. Yonts has accepted the position of Director of Principal Support, Eastern Washington with the Association of Washington School Principals. She begins July 1. Yonts spent 11 years in the classroom as a teacher at Berney Elementary. She went into administration 16 years ago. She was Assistant Principal at Garrison Middle School for six years and spent another five years as the school’s principal. She has been in her current role for the past five years.

“The growth, learning and investment in me as a teacher and administrator these past 27 years by the Walla Walla Public School system are appreciated and valued beyond measure,” said Yonts. “It’s a blessing that our family is able to continue living in the Walla Walla Valley and continue to be a part of this wonderful community. Moving forward, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to impact regional school systems through principal mentoring and support.”

No School Friday, May 11

There is No School Friday, May 11. This No School day was added to the calendar as a possible snow make-up day. Since school was not canceled this winter due to hazardous driving and walking conditions, the No School day will be observed. Classes resume Monday, May 14.

