

Walla Walla Public Schools

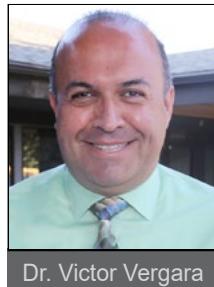
10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 17, 2017

Bilingual Education

*Preparing students to graduate
biliterate and college/career ready*



Dr. Victor Vergara

Last night Bilingual Programs Director Dr. Victor Vergara and Edison Elementary Principal Dr. Julie Perron provided the school board an update on the district's Bilingual Programs. They reported the focus for Bilingual Education is centered around two research-based programs: Dual Language and English Language Development (ELD). Dr. Vergara noted nearly 40 percent of district students are Hispanic and 13 percent qualify as English Language Learners. He also added 105 of this year's 386 kindergarten students qualify as English Language Learners.

Dr. Vergara and Dr. Perron both stressed the difference between proficiency levels associated with learning a new language. They are focused on helping students attain high proficiency levels necessary to be successful in academic environments, not just conversational settings. Both Dual Language and the new English Language Development programs are designed to help students acquire these advanced proficiency levels.

This new ELD program is operating in all district schools and serves about 60 percent of students identified as English Language Learners. In this program, non-native English speakers receive all core instruction in English (immersion program) in addition to receiving 30 minutes a day of supplemental English Language Development instruction to help expedite their English language mastery.

The Dual Language program serves approximately 40 percent of English Language Learners. Programs are operating at Edison, Blue Ridge, Green Park, Sharpstein and both middle schools. The programs at Green Park and Sharpstein are phasing out as Edison becomes a wall-to-wall Dual Language school. Blue Ridge operates what is known as a one-way Dual Language program where native Spanish speaking students learn English and Spanish in the same classroom setting.

Dr. Vergara said acquiring academic language generally takes 5 to 7 years and the development of high levels of biliteracy and cross-cultural competencies will take a minimum of 6 to 8 years. He defined proficiency in English as being college and career ready, passing the Smarter Balanced Assessment in English Language Arts and success on the English Language Proficiency Assessment. He said ongoing data monitoring and continuous teacher professional development will be key components of the Bilingual Program.

Board Meeting Highlights

• APPROVED ...

Minutes from the October 3, 2017 regular business meeting, personnel report, non-athletic extra and co-curricular contracts, and October 17 accounts payable, and September financial report.

Enrollment Report ...

October enrollment counts are on target with 2017-18 budget projections.

Policy 1st Readings ...

- 1210 - Annual Organizational Meeting
- 1410 - Executive or Closed Sessions
- 1420 - Proposed Agenda & Consent agenda
- 2000 - Student Learning Goals
- 2004 - Accountability Goals
- 2021 - Library Information & Tech Programs
- 2025 - Copyright Compliance
- 2027 - District Ownership of Staff-Created Work (new)
- 2029 - Animals as Part of the Instructional Program (new)
- 2030 - Service Animals in Schools (new)
- 2080 - Comprehensive Student Assessment Plan (remove)
- 2090 - Program Evaluation
- 2171 - School to Work (remove)
- 3116 - Students in Foster Care (new)
- 4218 - Language Access Plan
- 5005 - Employment: Disclosure, Certification Requirements, Assurances & Approval
- 5240 - Evaluation of Staff
- 6700 - Nutrition and Physical Fitness

PERSONNEL REPORT

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EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

DAVID HANSON | GROUNDS WORKER (TEMP) | FACILITIES

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...

Classified:

MOLLIE LEQUE | PARA-ED | EDISON, ONE MONTH

RUTHELL MARTINEZ | INTERVENTION SP. | SHARPSTEIN, 7 YRS



Remember to Vote! November 7 General Election

Ballots mail out October 18 and must be postmarked by November 7.

Facilities Task Force

Survey results indicate district on right path

Parents, community members, employees and students favorably supported the initial needs list and proposed draft solutions identified in a recent public survey developed by the Community Facilities Task Force. Based on staff and community survey engagements last spring, in addition to comprehensive facility analysis performed, the Community Facilities Task Force is recommending practical renovations of Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School, and Pioneer Middle School. Other facility needs across the district like large-scale roofing replacements, heating and cooling system upgrades and life safety improvements have also been identified as priority projects. This latest survey tested the group's initial priorities and cost-effective solutions.

A total of 569 people responded to the survey which is part of the community engagement phase of a deliberate two-year process to develop a Long-range Facilities Improvement Plan. Information gathered from this survey will help shape preliminary bond package options the Community Facilities Task Force will present to the school board in December. The school board will then seek further community input on these potential bond packages following winter break before making a final decision in May for a November 2018 bond proposal.

For the past 13 months, the eighteen-member Community Facilities Task Force has completed several studies and initiated extensive research. The district aims to preserve its historic buildings and infrastructure while renovating them to meet current educational needs. Walla Walla voters approved two bonds in the 1980's, three in the 90's and one in the last 18 years. As a result, all existing bond debt will be paid off in December 2018. Any facility improvement projects being proposed in November 2018 are likely to be a replacement of current rates, or a slight increase depending on community input, maintaining one of the lowest school bond rates in the region. The district is also in a position to receive unprecedented state match funding on future facility improvements and is only looking at options which allocate 100% of the state match dollars to the identified projects.

Quote of the Week

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

Pele

21st Century \$1.8 million grant

Walla Walla Public Schools received a \$1.8 million federal five-year grant to provide 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs at Edison, Green Park and Sharpstein elementary schools. This new funding allows 300 additional students, 100 per elementary school, to participate in these high quality programs focused on improved student academic performance. The primary objective of the new grant is to raise English Language Arts and math skills. The grant also provides additional resources to develop social-emotional support, reduce discipline referrals through improved student behaviors and curb chronic absenteeism.

American Education Week

November 13-17 is American Education Week and an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who ensure every child receives a quality education. Superintendent Wade Smith read a proclamation highlighting the week and the important role public education plays in our community.

High School update

Student Representative Brief - Walla Walla High School student Chloe Williams reported on the success of Homecoming Week as more than 600 students attended the dance and many others were involved in activities. Thirty clubs were on display at the open house event encouraging students to get involved in their school. Key Club is sponsoring the annual Trunk or Treat event for area children on Halloween from 5:30 to 7 a.m. Chloe said planning is underway for the annual Winter Wish campaign and a winter formal dance.