

# 10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

January 18, 2022

## Communities in Schools

*Local partnerships enhance learning*

Last night Director of Accelerated Learning and Support Brent Cummings shared how Communities In Schools of the Blue Mountain Region is having a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of district students and their families. Services are offered at all district elementary schools.

"They have worked diligently to ensure new and existing community partnerships are maximized for the benefit of all our young people at each school, focusing on a range of school-wide, targeted, and individual programs and supports," said Cummings.

Ruben Alvarado was recently hired to lead the launch of Communities In Schools in the Blue Mountain Region. He joins CIS with years of nonprofit and community development experience and he has served as a City Council member for the City of Pasco.

He says he has a strong desire to build teams and partnerships that improve the quality of life of our communities, students and families, in particular students who have historically experienced the greatest inequities in public systems.

At each elementary school site, a Communities In Schools staff member coordinates a comprehensive range of services to support the holistic needs of students—both academic and non-academic—so they come to school ready to learn.



**Brent Cummings**  
Accelerated Learning

"Communities in Schools is enhancing learning opportunities in our elementary schools through their dedicated approach to mobilizing community resources to address academic and nonacademic barriers for our students and their families."

**Brent Cummings**

*Director of Accelerated Learning*

The Student and Community Advocate will partner with school staff and local community service partners such as social service agencies, youth development partners, businesses, health care providers and volunteers to connect students with much needed resources.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED »

Minutes from the Dec. 14, 2021 regular business meeting and executive session and Jan. 5, 2022 special meeting/board retreat, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, Jan. 4 and Jan. 18 accounts payable and Dec. payroll, Dec. financial report and school board committee assignments.

### CALENDARS APPROVED »

School board members approved the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year calendars last night. The calendars are posted on the district's website and hard copies will be printed later this spring.

### BUDGET/ENROLLMENT »

Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor reported revenues and expenditures for November are in alignment with projections. Enrollment remains under beginning year budget projections, primarily due to smaller kindergarten classes. The district will closely monitor expenditures throughout the fiscal year to ensure the ending fund balance remains within board requirements of a 6 to 8 percent.

### HS STUDENT REPORT »

Last night Walla Walla High School Senior Rachel Clark, who serves as the school's liaison to the school board, provided an update on high school activities. She reported the outdoor Winter Dance, which was canceled last month due to poor weather, will not be rescheduled. The court was announced at last night's basketball game. Rachel said plans are being made for prom later this spring.

## Terri Trick takes oath of office

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith administered the Oath of Office for school board member Terri Trick. Mrs. Trick begins her second term on the school board. She was appointed to the WWPS Board of Directors on May 29, 2018 and was elected in 2019 to complete the term and re-elected in 2021. Her current term ends in 2025.

Mrs. Trick moved to Walla Walla in 1983. She and her husband Roger have three grown children, all of whom graduated from Wa-Hi. She has been an educator in Walla Walla for over 30 years.



**EMPLOYMENT . . .**

**Certificated:**

SHAWN RESER, SPECIAL EDUCATION, BERNEY

**Classified:**

ALEX BRELAND, GROUNDS WORKER, FACILITIES  
 PAUL MICHAEL CARPENTER, HVAC TECH, FACILITIES  
 LAURA CUELLAR, ASST SEC/RECORDS, SP EDUCATION  
 JUAN MARTINEZ, BIL CAMPUS SUPPORT, WA-HI  
 MEGAN MORRIS, PARA-ED, GARRISON MS  
 LIZETH SAUCEDO, BILINGUAL PARA-ED, EDISON  
 KAITLYN TOOMEY, PARA-ED, GREEN PARK

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .**

**Certificated:**

MICHELLE BRIONES, PROSPECT POINT, 30.5 YEARS  
 LORI DOHE, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 31 YEARS  
 DAVID LARSON, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 28 YEARS  
 MISSY NEWCOM, SPECIAL EDUCATION, 14 YEARS

**Classified:**

WILL GARCIA, BERNEY, 2.5 YEARS  
 KAREN NEHER, LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL, 25 YEARS  
 ANNALIESE SHAFER, WWCCF, 2.5 YEARS  
 - WAS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE SINCE NOV. 2021  
 TAMARA SIRMON, WWCCF, 1.5 YEARS  
 HEATHER USKO, TEACHING AND LEARNING, 9.5 YEARS  
 JEFF WARNER, BERNEY & GREEN PARK, 2 MONTHS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Certificated:**

JULIE WILEY, PROSPECT POINT, 17 YEARS  
 • FOR REMAINDER OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**Quote of the Week**

“Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.”

Abraham Lincoln

**School Board Appreciation Month**

January is School Board Appreciation Month. School districts nationwide have marked January as the month to celebrate school board members and their service. Our five publicly elected volunteers serve our community with passion, conviction, and accountability, adopting lofty goals and allocating the resources necessary to ensure all Walla Walla students receive a high-quality education and experience.

**Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors:**

- Mrs. Ruth Ladderud – President
- Mrs. Terri Trick – Vice President
- Ms. Kathy Mulkerin
- Mr. Eric Rindal
- Mr. Derek Sarley

“School board members play a critical role in our school district,” said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. “Much more than just setting policy and approving the budget, they work closely with me to ensure the district is on track to meet the goals and initiatives linked to the strategic plan.”

School board members serve four-year terms and volunteer hundreds of hours during their tenure. Washington state has 1,477 school board members, plus those who serve on the nine educational service district boards. Together, they form the core of Washington’s public education governance system.

“The pandemic and current political landscape have made it challenging in recent times to serve on the school board,” said Superintendent Smith. “Now more than ever it is important to let these dedicated public servants know how much they are appreciated. Please join me in recognizing our school board members throughout the month of January.”

**Bond Update**

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith provided school board members an update on bond projects. Pioneer Middle School staff welcomed students into the recently completed Phase One bond projects following winter break. Staff took students on a tour of the 1950’s gym, new locker rooms, new auxiliary gym/fitness center, new entry addition, new cafeteria and renovated 1950’s wing and classroom addition.

Phase Two projects at Pioneer, which include additions to the main building for science and art classrooms, begin this winter and will be completed by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

The renovated and expanded Wa-Hi Commons opened this month for students to gather and eat. Meal services are not available on site for a few more weeks.

Progress continues on the Wa-Hi student plaza, main academic building and original music building.

Contractors continue working on the Lincoln HS remodel and expansion. The project remains on schedule.