

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

January 21, 2020

Survey Results Update

Annual community phone survey reveals strong stakeholder support

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith briefed school board members on this school year's annual parent, student, staff and community perception surveys administered to gain data in support of the Strategic Plan. The Educational Effectiveness anonymous survey is administered to more than 1,000 schools across the nation allowing the district to compare its feedback against nationwide averages,

More than 3000 WWPS students (grades 4-12), over 90% of district K-12 building-level certificated and classified staff, and nearly 900 parents completed the 3rd annual stakeholder feedback survey.

"I couldn't be more proud of our results, growth, and hard work that reveal remarkable feedback from students, parents and faculty alike," said Superintendent Smith.

Visit the WWPS website and click on the Strategic Plan tab to see the results.



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"A majority of respondents in every demographic group gave the district a positive rating in every area tested"

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

The statistically reliable community telephone survey was completed by 300 randomly selected citizens to learn their perceptions of the district. The results revealed strong stakeholder support.

Community phone survey highlights:

- 84% gave a positive performance rating
- 89% would recommend WWPS to others
- 80% believe WWPS is on the right track
- 76% believe WWPS uses tax dollars wisely
- 81% believe WWPS is open/transparent
- Survey statistics show significant improvement from 2017 to today

School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month. Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith honored board members for their service. He noted the significant hours they volunteer at meetings, serving on committees and speaking on behalf of the district.

School directors play a crucial role in promoting student learning and achievement by creating a vision, establishing policies and budgets and setting clear standards of accountability.



L-R: Eric Rindal, Terri Trick, Derek Sarley, Ruth Ladderud and Sam Wells.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »»

Minutes from the Dec. 17, 2019 regular business meeting and executive session and Jan. 15, 2020 special meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, Resolution 01-2020: Request for waiver from minimum 180 day school year, Jan. 7 and Jan. 21 accounts payable and December payroll, December financial report, school board committee assignments, school improvement plans, Resolution 02-2020: Resolution for special facilities and Resolution 03-2020: Resolution of new-in-lieu replacement option.

ENROLLMENT REPORT »»

Enrollment for January is 5676 FTE. The district remains on track to meet its enrollment budget target of 5608.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE »»

Jaden Bergevin, the Walla Walla High School student representative to the school board, reported the annual Winter Wish assembly is Feb. 21 and the Conspiracy of Hope is Feb. 20-21. Students are also planning the Every 15 Minutes program which challenges students to say no to drinking and driving. The event is Feb. 27-28 and involves police, fire department, paramedics and other agencies.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION »»

School board members held an Executive Session Tuesday afternoon to continue the annual superintendent evaluation process. No action was taken.

EMPLOYMENT ...**Administrative:**

JENNIFER FOSTER | PRINCIPAL, EDISON

Classified:

NANCY TOMPKINS | BUS ASST, TRANSPORTATION

RESIGNATIONS ...**Certificated:**

STACY JUST | GARRISON MS, 3 YEARS

- STACY ALSO WORKED FOUR YEARS AS A PARA-ED

Quote of the Week

"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

John R. Wooden

National Board Certified

Walla Walla educators earn prestigious certification

Congratulations to Walla Walla Public Schools teachers Valerie Gentzler (Blue Ridge), Joshua Reed (Edison) and Kristen Wegner (Walla Walla High School) for earning their National Board certification. Last night Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea presented these outstanding educators with official pins recognizing this accomplishment. To become a Board-certified teacher, eligible candidates must demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills, and practice in their individual certificate area by completing four components: three portfolio entries and a computer-based assessment.



L-R: Asst. Superintendent Chris Gardea, Kristen Wegner, Valerie Gentzler, School Board President Sam Wells and Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. (Not in photo - Joshua Reed)

Curriculum Adoption

Last night, Teaching and Learning Executive Director Christy Krutulius recommended adoption of new K-5 Mathematics curriculum. The process spanned 12 months and included materials review, standards alignment to state requirements, piloting of materials, parent input and final review by the Instructional Materials Committee. Teachers Tensie Lovejoy and Claudia Saldivar reported about their experiences piloting the materials. School board members will be asked to consider approving the K-5 Math adoption next month.

Bond Update

Superintendent Smith's bond report states local contractor Nelson Construction and Walla Walla's Concrete Industries poured the slab during winter break. Local contractor Jackson Construction Group is now busy framing walls for the new facility, followed up shortly by Walla Walla's own Elsom Roofing who will be installing the roof system. The January bond report also states Pioneer MS construction documents are being developed and the district is seeking bids for Blue Ridge roof replacement project.

Edison principal named

Walla Walla Public Schools announces Jennifer Foster has been named principal of Edison Elementary School following an extensive applicant screening and interview process. The selection process included parent and staff meet and greet sessions, classroom observations, a formal interview and extensive reference checks. Foster will replace Interim Principal Joel Chavez who was appointed for the short-term following Dr. Julie Perron's promotion to the district's Director of Equity and Dual Programs. Edison Elementary is the district's magnet Dual Language school serving students from throughout the Walla Walla community.

"I couldn't be more excited about joining the Edison Elementary staff and becoming part of the Walla Walla community," said Foster. "The moment I walked into Edison Elementary I knew it was special. The positive interactions in the classroom, the enthusiasm for teaching and learning, and a love for students was evident everywhere. I am honored to be Edison's new principal and look forward to our new chapter as a staff and school community."