

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap >>

February 4, 2020

Strategic Plan Update

Strategic initiative investments detailed in mid-plan report to school board

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported how the school board's prioritized investments are having a profound impact across the district during his 2017-2022 Strategic Plan Mid-Plan Review during last night's regular study meeting.

Targeted investments over the past two years have been prioritized on the following Strategic Initiatives:

- Curriculum Adoption Program
- Technology Program Development
- Post-Secondary/Career Culture
- District-wide Behavioral Support
- District-wide Safety and Security
- Student Engagement Programming
- Latino Student & Family Outreach

As the district reaches the mid-way marker for its five-year Strategic Plan, Superintendent Smith says it is critical to remain disciplined on these high-yield initiatives.

"We need to practice them, support them and actually get good at them before we move on to something different," said Dr. Smith.



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"Our Strategic Plan provides consistency, clarity, and purpose to our core mission of educating current and future students of Walla Walla Public Schools."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

Superintendent Smith shared highlights of the key investments including significant curriculum adoptions the past three years, chromebooks for nearly every student in the district and an expanded Behavior Team to address the social and emotional needs of students. Latino outreach has been enhanced and an additional campus safety officer ensures full-time coverage at both middle schools. Engagement expansions including middle school soccer, 21st Century, weight room and start-up clubs are connecting students.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED >>

Minutes from the Jan. 21, 2020 regular business meeting and executive sessions, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, Feb. 4 accounts payable and January payroll, K-5 math curriculum adoption, Blue Ridge Elementary reroof contract and excused absence for Director Eric Rindal.

FEBRUARY NO SCHOOL DATES >>

Friday, Feb. 7: EARLY DISMISSAL K-5 (Conference Prep)

Thursday, Feb. 13 and Friday, Feb. 14: NO SCHOOL (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

Monday, Feb. 17: NO SCHOOL (Presidents Day)

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION >>

School board members held an Executive Session following the regular study meeting to continue the annual superintendent evaluation process. No action was taken.

PULSE VIDEO >>

Be sure to watch the February Pulse video as Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith provides timely updates on district operations and accomplishments.

Link is available on the district's YouTube page. Click on the icon at the bottom of the www.wwps.org website to connect.

Next Steps: Strategic Plan and Budgeting

- Feb 18th
 - Behavioral/Social Emotional Update
- March 3rd
 - Health Center Update
 - 2019-20 Projected EFB Report
 - Legislative Update
- March 17th
 - Preliminary Budget and Areas of Focus Discussion
 - Begin planning parameter discussion (EFB, enrollment, revenue/expenditure, etc)
 - Areas of focus for possible investment identified for staff research/proposal
- April 21st
 - Preliminary Budget and Areas of Focus Discussion (Cont'd)
 - Presentation of areas of focus investment concepts
- May 5th
 - 4yr/5yr Graduation Rates and Post Secondary Enrollment Review
 - Draft Budget Planning Parameters and Investments Discussed
- May 19th
 - Budget Planning Parameters and Investments Approved
- June 2nd
 - Healthy Youth Survey Review
- July 21st
 - I-Ready End of Year Data Review
- August 18th
 - Budget approval

EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

ALISHA WALKER | PARA-ED, PROSPECT POINT

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS ...

Certificated:

SANDRA BUSHNELL | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 2 YEARS

GREGG MARRON | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 2 YEARS

DEBORAH SCHADE | BERNEY, 27 YEARS

Classified:

JAMESON CLARK | BERNEY, 5 YEARS

Quote of the Week

"A liberal education is at the heart of a civil society, and at the heart of a liberal education is the act of teaching."

A. Bartlett Giamatti

Levy Ballots due Feb. 11

Informational levy video features staff

Ballots for the proposed Replacement Education Levy are out and must be postmarked by Feb. 11. Wa-Hi Wrestling Coach Jacob Butenhoff, Drama Teacher Kristin Hessler and Sharpstein Music Teacher Lori Parnicky are featured in a new informational video. VIDEO LINK - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGhba3445D4&t=2s>

The levy funds staff and programs not funded by the state. This includes more than 100 staff for music, arts, athletics, AP courses, security, nurses and more. This is a replacement levy. Tax rates will not go up.

More information online – <https://www.wwps.org/levy>



Wa-Hi Wrestling Coach Jacob Butenhoff discusses how his levy-funded wrestling program enhances learning.

Curriculum Adoption

Last night, school board members approved a new K-5 Mathematics curriculum marking a \$500,000 investment milestone for the Strategic Plan. The adoption 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. The next step is ordering materials and planning for teacher professional development later this spring.

Legislative Update

Governor supports WW Center for Children and Families funding

School board members conducted a conference call last night with lobbyist Marie Sullivan to get an update on this year's Legislative session. Sullivan reported it appears there is not much interest in education related spending during this 60-day short legislative session.

Bills related to school levies, School Employees Benefits Boards (SEBB) and staff funding ratios are not getting traction, according to Sullivan. She reported legislators are recommending further study on these issues following this session in preparation for next year's long legislative session.

She reported good news from Olympia as Governor Jay Inslee personally endorsed keeping \$95,000 in his budget proposal to help fund the director of the new Walla Walla Center for Children and Families. If allocated, WWPS will use the funds to help coordinate programming at the new early learning center.