

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »
March 3, 2020

Budget Development

Ending Fund Balance remains in compliance with board policy

Last night Nancy Taylor, Director of Fiscal Services, provided a financial update to the Board, including the Ending Fund Balance report that is presented every March. She noted the district continues to maintain fiscal stability despite turbulence at the state and legislative levels as a result of levy caps and McCleary Decision funding formula changes.

Taylor reported the district's ending fund balance is projected to be about \$9.8M. She noted a large percentage of the Ending Fund Balance consists of restricted funds tied to Federal and State grants and the Board's minimum 6% restricted reserve policy.

As the Board and district prepare for the development of the 2020-21 school year budget, Taylor praised the district and its bargaining groups for agreeing to three year contracts. She says the district is able to more accurately forecast upcoming budgets since there are two years remaining with both



Nancy Taylor
Director Fiscal Services

"Our district continues to be in good financial health. Our projected ending fund balance is within our budget estimates and board policy."

Nancy Taylor, Director of Fiscal Services

bargaining groups.

Unfortunately, as was discussed, it does not appear any significant increases in resources will be coming to the school district next year based on current legislative budgets presented both in the House and the Senate last week. The 2020-21 budget will go before the School Board for consideration Aug. 18.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the Feb. 18, 2020 regular business meeting and executive session, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, March 3 accounts payable and February payroll, Superintendent's evaluation and Superintendent's contract renewal.

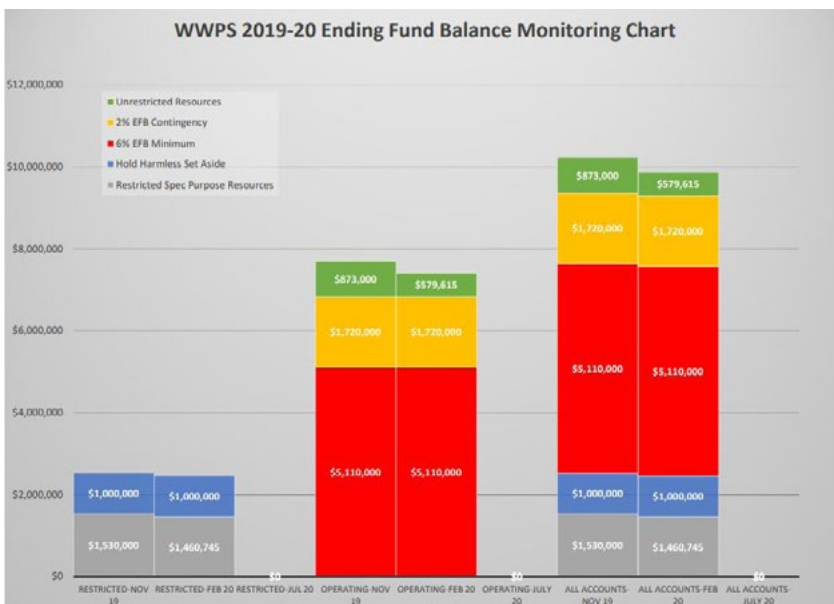
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE »

School board members conducted a conference call last night with lobbyist Marie Sullivan to get a second update on this year's Legislative session. Sullivan reported it does not appear any significant education increase in resources will be coming during this 60-day short legislative session.

She reported both the House and Senate budget proposals include a \$95,000 line item 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. Sullivan said she is 99.99 percent sure these dollars will be coming to Walla Walla Public Schools as the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families gets ready to open its doors this fall. Sullivan said legislators are planning to establish study groups and committees to address some of the bigger education-related issues such as School Employees Benefits Boards (SEBB) and staff funding ratios.

SPRING BREAK »

No School April 6-10



EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated:

CARRIE DIEDE | SPEECH LANG PATHOLOGIST, SPECIAL ED
 KELLI NEAL | SPEECH LANG PATHOLOGIST, SPECIAL ED

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS ...

Certificated:

PATRICIA JONES | WA-HI, 9 YEARS
 LANCE LONGMIRE | GARRISON MS, 21 YEARS
 CINDY NASS | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 29 YEARS
 MONICA NELSON | WA-HI, 16 YEARS
 - MONICA WAS ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE 19-20
 MORGAN JO POYNOR | PIONEER MS, 6 YEARS
 - MORGAN JO WAS ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE 19-20
 LESLIE RODRIGUEZ | GREEN PARK, 3 YEARS

Classified:

RICHARD KULBERG | BUSINESS OFFICE, 1.5 YEARS
 DAVID SARANTO SR | TRANSPORTATION, 2.5 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Certificated:

KEITH REARDON | PROSPECT POINT, 21 YEARS
 - FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Classified:

JENNY SWAGGER | GARRISON MS, 4.5 YEARS
 - FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2019-2020 YEAR

Quote of the Week

“A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.”

Nelson Mandela

Coronavirus Update

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith, Walla Walla County Director for Community Health Meghan Debolt, Health Services Director Amy Ruff and Facilities Director Kay briefed school board members on the district's Epidemic/Pandemic Response Plan.

They reported the plan is based on three pillars: Education, Communication and Prevention. To date, there are no confirmed cases in our school district.

Below are highlights of the district's plan.

- Classroom education plan initiated focused on stopping the spread of germs and facts.
- "Social distancing" in school and classroom settings to create "space" between students.
- Non-essential gatherings where large groups of parents/community/students are asked to convene will be postponed and rescheduled for a later date.
- Additional staff are working during the evenings to enhance cleaning and disinfecting.
- Additional hand sanitizer and materials.
- Additional staff training and communication will be implemented, including preventive measures for coaches to implement to support student athletes.

Visit the district's webpage for more information.

Health Center Update

Mental Health support continues to be in demand

Last night The Health Center Executive Director Lindsay Engh shared her annual update to the school board. Engh praised the district for its partnership which includes student-based health centers at Lincoln High School, Walla Walla High School, Pioneer Middle School and Blue Ridge Elementary. These sites deliver primary health and behavioral health care.

She said The Health Center would like to have clinics at all schools, but limited finances and qualified staff remain barriers to expansion. She reported The Health Center continues to expand mental health support to more campuses on a part-time basis to meet greater demand for these services.

Engh said her staff continues to focus on professional development to ensure they are prepared to meet today's health needs. They continue to seek ways to garner more insurance reimbursements to support the organization's financial needs. She also reported they had a successful flu shot drive this school year.

