

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

April 21, 2020

Grading Guidance

OSPI issues guidance to all school districts related to grading

Late evening Tuesday, April 21, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) issued guidance to all school districts across the state related to the grading of students during the extended school closure time period.

Consistent with the district's established Distance Learning Guiding Principles, and OSPI's recently-released Grading Guidance Publication, Walla Walla Public Schools' grading framework ensures equity, access, and individual student/family circumstances are considered when assigning final grades. This approach ensures all students remain engaged and progressing with their learning during campus closures, while accommodating for barriers that may inhibit some students from participating fully in their learning.

For high school courses, students will continue to be graded on an A through D scale. However, in accordance with direction from the State, failing grades (F's) must be replaced with an incomplete (INC), allowing students to recover credit at a later date. Pass/Fail, No Credit and other non-customary grading schemas will not be allowed pursuant to OSPI directive stemming from concerns around the long term post-secondary impacts. Concerns that alternative approaches may negatively impact scholarships, military recruiting, college athletics, and access to some colleges and universities drove this guidance.

For students in grade PK-8, districts retain complete decision-making related to grading



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

“We expect students to remain engaged through the end of the year and our staff will do everything in their power to ensure our students remain on track for graduation, continue to earn credits and are ready to progress to the next grade.”

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

and reporting. As already communicated to preschool and elementary parents, the district has transitioned to two, narrative-based reports that will be provided to parents in early May and at the end of the school year. These reports will address individual student learning, growth and accomplishments during the distance learning program.

Similar to high school grading criteria, WWPS middle school students will continue to receive traditional grades (A-D). After equity implications are considered, students may be assigned summer school or additional fall learning experiences if their distance learning engagement is not satisfactory.

According to Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith, Walla Walla's approach to grades during this unprecedented time honors student commitment, while ensuring equity-related factors for each student and family are addressed.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »»

Minutes from the March 17, 2020 regular business meeting and March 16, 2020 special meeting, personnel report, issuance of contracts and notifications of reasonable assurance, April 7 & 21 accounts payable and March payroll, March financial report, surplus equipment and materials, Lincoln value engineering study report and Garrison MS reroof project.

POLICY FIRST READING »»

2409-Credit for Competency/Proficiency

ENROLLMENT REPORT »»

Due to the COVID-19 school campus closure, the district is tallying enrollment for April, May and June based on historical calculations. The district remains on track to meet its enrollment budget target of 5608.

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING »»

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors has converted all board meetings to online. The Zoom meetings are open to the public via telephone for audio only listening.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT UPDATE »»

Superintendent Smith reported the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting the budget development process. Delays have occurred at the state level as a result of the pandemic. School board members will continue budget development planning and discussions this spring. School board members will have two budget planning meetings in May and one in July before it goes up for a vote August 18.

EMPLOYMENT . . .**Certificated:**

ROSA BAHENA-FLORES | KINDER DUAL, GREEN PARK

IRIS SALAZAR | 2ND GRADE DUAL, GREEN PARK

Teacher Appreciation Week**May 4-8, 2020**

Thank you!

Quote of the Week

“The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn ...and change.”

Carl Rogers

Safety Improvements

Local contractor gets two more district projects

S&K Mountain Construction of Walla Walla recently began bond-funded safety improvements at Prospect Point Elementary. The project includes raising curbs and widening sidewalks near the front entrance of the school to improve safety in the parent drop-off and pick-up area. The project is expected to be completed in four to six weeks. S&K Mountain Construction also secured the bid to re-roof Garrison Middle School. This non bond-funded project is expected to be completed this summer.

Wellens Farwell contractors are also onsite at Blue Ridge Elementary for the bond-funded roof replacement project. Dirt is being removed from the existing roof so a new membrane can be installed. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

**WWPS Bond Projects Update (April 2020)***Walla Walla High School*

- Framing continued on the Science Building as Jackson's framers completed the exterior framing creating an enclosed structure safe from weather and has the ability to be locked up in case of emergency
- The windows and frames were installed around the perimeter of the Science Building.
- The exterior and interior insulation efforts were largely completed.
- The exterior brick façade construction has begun along the west end.
- The Utilities/Infrastructure bid package was awarded and had the kickoff with subcontractors which include local Premier Excavation and Walla Walla Electric.
- COVID-19: As clarified by the Governor to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and relayed by Dr. Wade Smith, construction of schools is deemed essential work and as such, Jackson, Wenaha, and Architects West have enacted safety measures to increase social distancing and create awareness in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. All parties are committed to the work and to public safety and are evaluating the situation continually.

Pioneer Middle School

- Dr. Smith, Wenaha Group and Architects West met with the staff to go over the current design in an all-day review session.
- Wenaha Group continued to coordinate the temporary facilities to ensure readiness for school year 2020-2021.
- Architects West and their design team completed the temporary facilities packages that will soon be bid through the small works roster.

Blue Ridge Elementary

- Wellens Farwell mobilized on site and installed perimeter safety fence around the work area.
- Local subcontractor Allen Key Excavation began removing soil from the berm over the roof.
- Taking into account the school closures, work has been accelerated with the hope of finishing early.

See more information online:

<https://www.wwps.org/bond>