

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

June 15, 2021

Bond Program Update

Summer construction activity ramps up

Construction work at Pioneer Middle School and Walla Walla High School continues to dominate the landscape at both campuses. Walla Walla High School will look much different to start the 2021-2022 school year as the original science building, library addition and modernization, fitness facility and music building will be completed. The Commons renovation and addition will be completed later in the fall.

Contractors will begin on the Wa-Hi Academic building next week and it will remain under construction throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

At Pioneer Middle School, phase one of the work will be completed before winter break of the 2021-2022 school year. This includes the gym renovation, 1950's wing remodel, cafeteria addition, auxiliary fitness space addition, new music rooms and CTE addition. Contractors will shift to phase two of the project next school year which includes a science addition to the front of the school, site improvements and new parent drop-off/pick-up



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"We continue to Deliver on our Promise for the bond program. Our pledge is to ensure accountability and fiscal transparency and build community trust."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

lane off Bridge St. Bids for the Lincoln High School renovation will be opened July 22 with construction beginning this fall.

Earlier this month Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith took members of the Bond Oversight Committee on a tour of the Pioneer Middle School project. This marks the 18th meeting with the group since the successful November 2018 bond election.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from June 1 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, June 15 accounts payable and May Financial Report.

BUDGET UPDATE »

Last night Superintendent Smith and Director of Fiscal Services Nancy Taylor provided school board members an update on the development of the \$88.9M 2021-2022 General Fund Budget. The 2021-2022 budget will maintain a fund balance within the board mandated range of 6 to 8 percent. Board members will approve the budget in August.

POLICY ADOPTIONS »

- 1430: Audience Participation
- 3122: Excused/unexcused absences
- 6000: Program planning, budget preparation, adoption and implementation
- 6230: Relations with vendors

FISCAL/ENROLLMENT UPDATE »

Director of Fiscal Services Nancy Taylor reported revenue and expenditures for April are on target with projections. Enrollment remained stable for June.

POLICY DISCUSSION »

Board members discussed Policy 3220 - Freedom of Expression. Board members reviewed the policy as a first reading and will continue to discuss it during the second reading. No action was taken.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL »

Last Day of School - June 18
(Early dismissal for all students)

School board eyes taking study meetings on the road

Last night school board members discussed their meeting schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Board members were in favor of taking some of their study meetings on location to school settings. They said touring the school while in session and then relocating to a classroom or library for the formal study meeting was appealing to witness firsthand how their policies and budget decisions were being put into action.

Board members also expressed interest in continuing live stream services of their business meetings and asked Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith to research better technology systems for the boardroom to enhance the experience.

Board members also discussed planning schedules for a new or updated Strategic Plan. The current plan expires at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Consensus was reached to postpone the start of planning for a new Strategic Plan due to COVID impacts on the 2020-21 school year. Board members will continue discussing their calendar schedule and look towards beginning the Strategic Planning process later in the 2021-22 or early 2022-23 school years.

EMPLOYMENT . . .**Certificated:**

JEFFREY BOCKERT | COUNSELOR (2021-22), TBD
 TAYLOR HUNT | MATH (2021-22), WA-HI
 AMANDA MEYER | MATH (2021-22), WA-HI
 FABIOLA OCHOA | 5TH GR DUAL LANG (2021-22), EDISON
 BRYLIE FITZGERALD | MUSIC (2021-22), GREEN PARK
 NANCY ROSE | SCIENCE/STEM (TEMP 2021-22), WA-HI
 APRIL SORENSEN | SPECIAL ED (2021-22), LINCOLN
 VERONICA SOLIS MARTINEZ | DUAL (2021-22), EDISON
 SYDNEY WALLINGFORD | ENG/LA (2021-22), GARRISON
 HANNAH WEBBER | COUNSELOR (2021-22), TBD

Classified:

STEPHANIE BELTRAN | BIL ASST SEC/REC (21-22),
 GARRISON
 STEPHANIE REYES ESPINOZA | BIL MIGRANT (21-22),
 EQUITY/DUAL PROGRAMS
 EUGENE THOMPSON | TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
 (21-22), TRANSPORTATION
 YAJARA TORRES MELGOZA | BIL ASST SEC/REC (21-22),
 GARRISON

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .**Certificated:**

ANNIE BOYD | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 11 YRS
 KELSIE LOREE | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 7 YRS
 CARRIE LUJAN | WA-HI, 9 YRS
 JESSICA VANDER POL | WA-HI, 1 YR

Classified:

SERENA JAMES | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 3 YRS
 NANCY MONTGOMERY | BERNEY, 7 YRS
 JAMIE NOFFSINGER | TRANSPORTATION, 5 YRS
 JOLENE QUEEN | SHARPSTEIN, 32 YRS

Quote of the Week

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

George Washington Carver

High School Champions Annual Recognition

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith honored three high school students for state level success. In 2018-2019 Walla Walla Public Schools started a new tradition of honoring state champion individuals and teams at a board meeting. Students and teams qualify for this recognition by finishing in the top three at state for athletics, music, drama, FFA, FBLA, debate, JROTC and any other state qualifying activities.

Jocelyn Parker – FBLA Regional Champion

Jocelyn Parker has been a highly active member of Future Business Leaders of America for the past two years at Walla Walla High School as the Public Relations Officer and Vice President. Jocelyn qualified for FBLA Nationals and will be competing in Business Law as one of the top representatives from the State of Washington.

Isabella Baughman – SkillsUSA Medalist

Isabella Baughman, of the SEATech Criminal Justice Program, finished with a silver medal in the Prepared Speech Leadership competition and will represent the State of Washington in the National Championships this summer in her event.

Nicole Hunter - Junior Olympic State Champion

Nicole Hunter is the JROTC Company First Sergeant and next year will serve as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major. She has represented Walla Walla High School at three National Championship Rifle Matches and is scheduled to compete in two National Matches in Ohio this July. The Blue Devil Precision Rifle Team is currently the #6 ranked Army JROTC Rifle Team in the United States.

Superintendent Smith State Award

The Washington Association of School Administrators awarded Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith with the Student Achievement Leadership award for the Southeast region during its annual meeting in Richland June 9.

This award is presented to WASA members who have provided leadership for the implementation of an innovation that has resulted in measurable growth in student achievement. The innovation serves as a tool for modeling new programs.

Dr. Smith spearheaded the development of an inclusive and comprehensive strategic planning process when he arrived in 2016. Built on a foundation of stakeholder voice and equity, the plan incorporated a "We All Belong Here" vision that prioritized quality instruction, aligned systems, student supports and community partnerships. Under his leadership, graduation rates have soared to all-time highs, from 80.4% to 91.7%. Additionally, the district has virtually eliminated the graduation gap between student populations. With an unwavering commitment toward equity and access, the Hispanic/Latino graduation rate has increased nearly 20% under Smith's leadership to 88%, 10% above the state average.

"The award recognizes what our community already knows. Walla Walla Public Schools is thriving under Dr. Smith's leadership," said School Board President Derek Sarley. "The construction projects all over town are the most visible signs of that success, but the academic improvements are by far the most important."