

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

October 5, 2021

Annual Feedback Survey

District seeks input through annual survey

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith briefed school board members on the timeline for this month's launch of the annual Center for Educational Effectiveness survey.

The district has partnered with CEE for the past five years to administer this anonymous Educational Effectiveness Survey tool. These surveys help the school district determine organizational effectiveness, student engagement and motivation, social-emotional learning, as well as parent/community involvement. Superintendent Smith said the data is critical to tracking progress towards its Strategic Plan goals and initiatives.

The district will begin administering the survey to parents Monday, Oct. 11. Parents are asked to complete a separate survey for each child's school using their own electronic devices. Paper copies are also available by request from the child's school and have been mailed to homes. The parent survey, available in multiple languages, takes about 10 minutes to complete and is accessible online by visiting the following website: www.wwps.org/ees

The parent survey closes Friday, Oct. 29.

Students and staff are also taking the Educational Effectiveness survey. The student survey is taken online by students in grades 4-12. It is offered in multiple languages and takes about 12 minutes to complete. Students access the survey by a web link on their Chromebooks while at school.

All building-level staff, from teacher-to-cook-to-custodian, are included in the survey. It takes about 12 minutes to complete and receive survey links through their email.

"This survey helps the school district get a full picture of how staff, families and students perceive their school and their place in it," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "This year it



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

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Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

is especially important to get this feedback as the district begins preparing for its next five year strategic plan."

The district is also conducting their regular statistically reliable community telephone survey of approximately 300 Walla Walla citizens. This annual phone survey provides the school board input on how well they are doing in their governance and policy role. The district encourages community members to respond to the survey if they are one of the randomly selected telephone recipients.

"Our most recent phone survey revealed very strong community support for board leadership, financial transparency and district direction," said Superintendent Smith. "This annual feedback provides important input that our board values and responds to."

The survey questions were developed by the Center for Educational Effectiveness, a Washington-based educational research firm, and has been used with over 750,000 educational stakeholders in the Western U.S.. It provides a powerful tool for district staff to benchmark current school perceptions with high-performing schools across the nation.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »»

Minutes from Sept. 21 regular business meeting and executive session, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, teachers assigned out of endorsement area, October 5 accounts payable and September payroll, and annual highly capable program compliance.

PARENT CONFERENCES »»

Parent/teacher conferences are Oct. 11-14. Most conferences will be held virtually again this year via ZOOM due to COVID safety protocols. Parents are asked to schedule a ZOOM conference using the web scheduler: <https://www.wwps.org/conferences>. Parents may contact their child's school secretary for assistance with scheduling a conference.

How to Schedule Conference Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsQ4kmN9vAM>

NO SCHOOL DAYS

- Friday, Oct. 8 (Professional Day)
- Thursday, Oct. 14 (Parent Conferences)
- Friday, Oct. 15 (Parent Conferences)

DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH »»

In honor of National Disability Awareness Month and beyond, Director of Special Education Libby Thompson would like the community to celebrate the diversity of children and adults with disabilities. This year's theme is inclusion.

"People with disabilities bring a lot of strengths to our community," said Thompson. "They teach us about empathy and loving our neighbors and how to get along with each other."

EMPLOYMENT ...**Classified:**

JESSICA AVERY, PARA-EDUCATOR, WA-HI
 ALY FAZZARI, PARA-EDUCATOR, GREEN PARK
 CARTER MARTIN, BUS ASSISTANT, TRANSPORTATION
 LAURA OSTERHOUT, PARA-EDUCATOR, SHARPSTEIN
 FATIMA ROBLES, HS BIL FAMILY ADVOCATE, WWCCF

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...**Classified:**

SHERRI DOTSON, SHARPSTEIN, 5 YEARS
 JESUS LEON, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 5 YEARS
 JORDAN SPENGEMAN, WA-HI, 2 WEEKS

Quote of the Week

“Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.”

Abraham Lincoln

Highly Capable Program*School board annual update and progress report*

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis provided a Highly Capable Program update to the school board last night.

Summary of Current Program Model*Elementary*

- 3rd-5th grade, one day a week pull-out program (Explorers)
- Core differentiation by classroom teachers at their home school

Middle School

- Extensive honors offerings such as ELA, science, math and social studies

High School

- Services and programs through accelerated programming such as honors/AP access, Running Start, and above-grade level courses

Krutulis said this year's update was focused on outcomes established by the Highly Capable Program Review Committee formed during the 2016-2017 school year. Focus areas for the committee were assessments, professional development and advanced learning opportunities. An example of an improved assessment is one that measures student thinking instead of prior knowledge from outside of school experiences. Krutulis said there is more diversity in the program as a result of these adjustments. There is an increase of 7% of students who qualify for Free/Reduced-Price meals now in the program. There is also a 6% increase of Hispanic students being served in Highly Capable programs and the number of students receiving English Language services is up from only a few to 37 students in these programs.

Principal Appreciation Month

October is an opportunity to show your appreciation for Walla Walla Public Schools' principals in celebration of National Principal Appreciation Month. The school district recognizes the essential role principals play in providing opportunities for students to realize their potential and follow their dreams.

“Principals are the glue behind our great schools,” said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. “They are often the first to arrive and last to leave as they model the example for all their students of the hard work it takes to succeed.”

District principals have expanded their skill sets through the challenges of COVID-19. Distance learning, new safety protocols, virtual meetings and unprecedented social and emotional demands for students are just a few examples of the need for their visionary leadership.

“I am so proud of our principals for their tireless pursuit of success for each student,” said Superintendent Smith. “These past two years have been some of the most challenging in our history, and without hesitation our principals step up to guide and support their schools in ways large and small every day.”

Walla Walla Public Schools encourages students, parents and staff to take time this month to thank a district principal. Thank you for taking time to honor these unsung heroes for their tireless efforts in pursuit of excellence in education.