

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

December 15, 2020

Early Learning

Walla Walla Center for Children & Families was years in the making

For decades early learning leaders in the community dreamed of a central location and facility to house programs and services for children and families. This school year the dream became reality with the opening of the Walla Walla Center for Children & Families (WWCCF) at the former Blue Ridge Elementary location.

Last night Director Samantha Bowen reported the new early learning hub is taking shape with a focus on kindergarten readiness despite COVID-related campus closures.

Facility improvements include a new bond-funded roof, updated exterior and interior paint and new grant-funded playground coming this spring. Community partnerships are also forming at WWCCF with the addition of Children's Home Society, Commitment to Community, Disability Network, ESD 123, The



Samantha Bowen
Director

Health Center, WWCC and WW Valley Early Learning Coalition.

New to the district this year is a Transitional Kindergarten program for four-year-olds. Head Start, ECEAP and Developmental preschool programs are also offered at WWCCF. A dynamic family engagement program helps WWCCF become a one-stop center for parent services and support.

Bowen is releasing a new video of the program this week and has expanded social media communications and the program's website presence. She is looking forward to welcoming students on campus in the future.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »»

Minutes from the Nov. 17, 2020 regular business meeting, personnel report, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, Dec. 1 & 15 accounts payable and Nov. payroll and Nov. financial report.

- Resolution No. 22-2020, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on Walla Walla Public Schools' campuses. The Resolution authorizes the use electric vehicle charging stations on district campuses for visitors, staff and students.

BOARD OFFICERS ELECTION »»

School board members unanimously voted to name Derek Sarley School Board President. Director Ruth Ladderud was unanimously elected Vice President.

ENROLLMENT/BUDGET »»

District enrollment continues to dip following a statewide trend due to the COVID pandemic. The FTE count for December is 5492, down 37 FTE since November. This month's enrollment decline represents approximately a \$300,000 revenue hit, bringing the total revenue loss for the school year to an estimated \$3M.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE »»

Last night, Wa-Hi student representative Jaden Bergevin reported several fun activities slated for Wa-Hi following break.

COVID UPDATE »»

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health reports local COVID cases continue to climb. The district will remain in Red Stage for at least two weeks following winter break.

Enrollment Overview

Current Pre-K Capacity = 390

Total Funded Slots = 278

- Head Start: 136
- ECEAP: 88
- Transitional Kindergarten: 50
- Developmental Preschool: 4



EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

MARIA CONCEPCION SANCHEZ SARABIA | PARA, EQUITY & DUAL PROGRAMS

BREANNA WRIGHT | FISCAL/PURCHASING SP, BUSINESS OFFICE

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS

Classified:

SONIA FRENCH | TRANSPORTATION, 30 YRS

GRISelda GARCIA ALVAREZ | GREEN PARK, 1 YR

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Classified:

SHERRY ORCHARD | GARRISON MS, 7 YRS

- FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

“I would rather entertain and hope that people learned something than educate people and hope they were entertained.”

Walt Disney

Winter Break - Dec. 21 to Jan. 1

Winter Break Holiday Schedule

- No school Monday, Dec. 21 to Friday, Jan. 1
- Classes resume Monday, Jan. 4 (WWPS remain in Distance Learning – Red Stage)

Winter Break free meals program

- Pick up for pre-ordered meals is Saturday, December 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Support Services Building, 1174 Entley St. in Walla Walla.
- Please wear masks and stay in your vehicle when picking up food.
- If you have questions or need assistance, please call 509-527-3016.

COVID Update: Distance Learning to Continue

Walla Walla Public Schools will remain in distance learning for all students (Red Stage) when classes resume Jan. 4 following winter break due to continued elevated COVID cases in the community. The district remains in close communications with local health officials and will continue to carefully monitor cases. The district will continue to communicate frequently with parents, staff and students regarding COVID. We encourage parents to use the Equity Outreach Hotline (509.526.6787) and Special Education/504 Hotline (509.526.6770) for additional support.



Bond Update (November 2020)

Walla Walla High School

- Final punchlist items on the New Science Building.
- Selective demolition inside the Old Science Building and in the Library Building.
- Abatement specialists clearing hazardous materials from the Old Science Building.
- Local subcontractor Premier Excavation continued work on the Library, Auditorium and Gym additions by prepping for the new footings.
- Jackson Contractor Group poured concrete for the Auditorium, Gym and Library additions.
- Local subcontractor Gillespie Roofing continued work on re-roofing the VoAg Building.
- The design team worked through submittals, RFI's, and performed site visits to ensure the project is coming along as planned.
- As with any remodel, there were challenges of discovering unknown conditions during the construction activities; the district, Jackson, the design team, and Wenaha Group worked together to address these issues as they arose and provided cost effective solutions.

Pioneer Middle School

- Jackson Contractor Group and plumbing sub installed temporary heating for the north wing.
- Structural demolition completed and selective demolition in the west wing were completed.
- Abatement of hazardous materials was ongoing with new areas discovered and addressed.
- Work on the new parking lot on Bridge Street.
- Excavation and grading for the new entry way addition was completed.
- Similar to WaHi, there were challenges of discovering unknown conditions during the construction activities; the district, Jackson, the design team, and Wenaha Group worked together to address these issues as they arose and provided cost effective solutions.

- Jackson completed pre planning on the gym bleacher demolition with work to begin shortly.

Lincoln High School

- Construction documents are nearing completion.
- A design update and check-in meeting with key staff and stakeholders was held.
- Wenaha Group assembled a team to identify potential issues in design and make suggestions. These comments will be incorporated into the plans by Architects West and plans will be submitted for permit review early in 2021.