

# Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



## School Board Meeting Recap | February 5, 2019

### Elementary Enrollment Dips

*District to engage in conversation to address elementary enrollment and early learning*

School board members discussed a recent preschool expansion grant, early learning center, elementary enrollment projections and facility capacity during their monthly study meeting.

The bulk of the discussion centered around how to address the district's trend of declining elementary enrollment numbers, down 248 students in nine years.

"Class counts that used to range between 450-500 students per grade have gradually receded to sizes ranging from the 380's - 410's," reports Superintendent Wade Smith. "In just a few short years, while maintaining our current ~25:1 avg elementary student to class ratio, this will result in nearly 30 empty general education classrooms across our six elementary schools."

State, regional and local experts are also predicting stable enrollment over the next



Wade Smith

"I look forward, over the next months and year, engaging with our Board, staff, parents and stakeholders as we explore opportunities to support current enrollment trends, while exploring increased access for early learning experiences and partnerships."

**Wade Smith, Superintendent**

10 years. Superintendent Smith says this enrollment trend has resulted in significant financial challenges for the district.

"Not only has the 'McCleary Levy Swap' negatively impacted Walla Walla

*SEE MORE RIGHT*

### Board Meeting Highlights

#### APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Jan. 15, 2019 regular business meeting and executive session, Jan. 29, 2019 special meeting minutes, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, Feb. 5 accounts payable, January payroll, and School Board committee assignments.

#### Conferences & Holiday . . .

- No school: Feb. 14 and 15 (conferences)
- No school: Feb. 18 (Presidents Day)
- Classes resume Tuesday, Feb. 19

#### Enrollment trend continued . . .

disproportionately, as our elementary student count has continued to wane, we have strayed further and further from the state's funded prototypical model."

Board members considered two options for addressing these issues. Option One called for possible changes to take effect during the 2019-2020 school year and Option Two delayed it one year.

"The Board reached consensus that greater outreach and input into the necessary changes outweigh the financial impacts for one year," said Smith.

The board will begin a comprehensive process to glean vast stakeholder input as the district develops an implementation plan for Fall 2020 to best meet student learning needs and district operational interests.

### Schools at-a-Glance

	Current Elementary Enrollment	Projected Enrollment Based on Current KG Class and "Roll ups"	Historic Enrollment Served (High point)	Empty Gen Ed Classrooms Based on Projected Enrollment
Sharpstein	388	312	458	9 Classrooms
Green Park	407	312	473	9-11 Classrooms
Edison	438	520	500	1 Classroom
Prospect Point	495	520	548	3 Classrooms
Berney	464	446	473	3 Classrooms
Blue Ridge	280	297	307	2 Classrooms (11 excluding preschool)

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT . . .**

**Administrative:**

DANA CHANDLER | PRINCIPAL | PROSPECT PT, 4YRS

**Certificated:**

WILLIAM BIALOZOR | WA-HI, 11 YRS

MICHELE (MELL) GRIBNAU | GREEN PARK, 27 YRS

**Classified:**

NATHAN GIBB | GARRISON MS | 2.5 YEARS

TARA HOOKER | BLUE RIDGE PRESCHOOL | 1 YEAR

TIM LYON | PIONEER MS | 1 MONTH

LESLIE MORENO | BR PRESCHOOL | 3 MONTHS

TOM VICARI | GARRISON MS | 31 YEARS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE . . .**

**Certificated:**

TYLER COMSTOCK | SPEECH PATH | SP. ED, 5 MONTHS

• .2 FTE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR REMAINDER 2018-19

**Quote of the Week**

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

Kofi Annan

**Board Committee Assignments**

**Administrator Consult and Confer\*\***

- Ruth Ladderud

**Administrative Finance Committee\***

- Sam Wells

- Terri Trick

**Administrative Policy Committee\***

- Ruth Ladderud

- David Hampson

**Career/Technical Education\*\*\***

- Ruth Ladderud

**Certificated Negotiations\*\***

- Derek Sarley

**Classified Negotiations\*\***

- Sam Wells

**Equity & Access Committee\***

- David Hampson

- Terri Trick

**Graduates of Distinction Committee\***

- Terri Trick

**Head Start Policy Council\*\*\***

- Ruth Ladderud

**Instructional Review Committee\***

- Sam Wells

**Legislative Representative\*\*\***

- Ruth Ladderud

Safe Schools\*

- Terri Trick

**School Health Advisory Committee\***

- David Hampson

- Derek Sarley

**Technology Task Force\***

- Sam Wells

Type of Committee:

\*Administrative, \*\*Board Sub Committee, \*\*\*Other

**Bond Update**

**Local contractor to renovate Walla Walla High School**

Jackson Contractor Group of Walla Walla was announced the General Contractor to complete the \$72 million Walla Walla High School renovation project following Monday’s public bid opening. The agreement is pending final contract negotiations and school board approval slated for later this month. Jackson Contractor Group was ranked the most qualified candidate from the four proposing firms after a three-phase process which included a comprehensive proposal, face-to-face interviews and final fees.

“Jackson Contractor Group had the highest ranked proposal, interview and lowest cost to deliver on our flagship Wa-Hi project,” said Superintendent Wade Smith. “We are delighted to announce a local firm will construct this historic project for our community.”

Walla Walla Public Schools will utilize the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) model, often referred to as a “collaborative delivery model,” which allows the contractor to be involved early in the design phase, capitalizing on Jackson’s ability to participate and partner through the pre-construction and design programming.

The project will kick off this fall when ground is broken on a new science addition. The entire Wa-Hi project is expected to be completed by the start of the 2022 school year. With 45 Jackson family members living in Walla Walla County, including several parents with children in district schools, Jackson Contractor Group says there is a special connection to Wa-Hi.

“We are avid Blue Devil fans and supporters,” said Division Manager Matt Brossman. “Our strong ties in the local community and familiarity with local subcontractors and market conditions will help make this project a collaborative and successful certainty.”