



School Board Meeting Recap | May 19, 2015

Elementary Science

Elementary science teachers provide students a foundation for success



Christy Krutulis

Last night, Berney Elementary Principal Christy Krutulis updated the school board on the district's elementary science curriculum during a public work session. Teachers Rob Ahrens (Wa-Hi), Michelle Carpenter (Green Park) and David Parodi (Prospect Point) assisted with the presentation. Krutulis said aligning curriculum and instruction with the new Next Generation Science Standards has been a focus for elementary teachers and principals. The Measurement of Student Progress will continue to be the state assessment tool for 5th grade students through 2018. Krutulis said they

would also like to find ways to update the 17-year-old science kits used across the district. She did report the kits are in good shape thanks to the science kit maintenance program which operates out of the district supplies warehouse. But, she said they are dated and in need of improvement. According to last night's report, elementary students receive about three hours of science instruction per week. Ahrens said the elementary teachers are providing an excellent foundation for success in high school. He says the data speaks for itself.

Board Meeting Highlights

■ **APPROVED . . .**

Minutes from the May 5, 2015 board meeting, May 13, 2015 special board meeting, and May 15, 2015 executive session, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra-curricular contracts, May 19 accounts payable and April financial report, use of equipment for summer sport camps, student insurance 2015-16, Head Start 2015-2016 training and technical assistance plan.

■ **Elementary Early Dismissal . . .**

- Friday, June 5 (elementary only)
- Report card preparation
- Regular schedule for grades 6-12

■ **Superintendent Search . . .**

School board members unanimously approved hiring Dr. Dennis Ray of Northwest Leadership Associates to conduct the district's Superintendent Search. Dr. Ray was Superintendent in Walla Walla from 1980 to 1990 and will serve as the lead person conducting the search. He said the process will begin in October with a new superintendent hired in March. He said the process will be transparent with plenty of opportunities for input from staff and the community. Current Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan will lead the district next school year. The new superintendent will assume the duties July 1, 2016.



Social Studies Update

(L-R) Middle School Social Studies teachers Chris Plucker (Pioneer), Conor Fish (Garrison), Brad Ludwig (Pioneer), and Mike Braddock (Garrison) briefed the school board on the curriculum. They said technology, hands-on projects and group activities help support learning and student achievement.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Administrative:

LIBBY THOMPSON | DISTRICT OFFICE
Director of Special Education

Certificated:

HEIDI COHAN | GARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Language Arts

CESAR HERNANDEZ | EDISON ELEMENTARY
5th grade (temporary)

JENNIFER MATSON | SHARPSTEIN ELEMENTARY
Learning Specialist (.5 FTE)

NATHAN MCCLURE | WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL
English

KATHLEEN TIFFANY | WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL
English (temporary)

Classified:

LAURA DUNCAN | GARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Music Department Secretary

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS ...

Classified:

LIBBY ARNOSTI | 1 YEAR | PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
GREGORY BAKER | 31 YEARS | SE TRANSPORTATION CO-OP
KIMBERLY GUTIERREZ | 1 YEAR | BLUE RIDGE ELEMENTARY
JACQUELINE SCHOLL | 9 YEARS | PROSPECT POINT
ALEJANDRA TREJO | 10 YEARS | EDISON ELEMENTARY
REBECCA WILLIAMS | 2 MONTHS | SE TRANS. CO-OP

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Certificated:

DANIEL CALZARETTA | 8 YEARS | PIONEER EXPLORERS
(for the 2015-2016 school year)

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

KAREN BUMGARNER, ANGIE BUTLER, SHELLY CRUMP, CONOR FISH, JENNIFER HEIN, CLAYTON HUDIBURG, KIM KELSAY, MONICA NELSON, AND PETE PETERSON to AVID Summer Institute in Denver, CO (Funding: Title II, GEAR-UP)

Quote of the Week

“Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the youth and beauty.”
Chanakya

End of an Era

Betsy Adkins to retire at the end of the month

Last night was Betsy Adkin’s last school board meeting as Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Her last day is Friday, May 29. Adkins has worked in the district for 41 years. She began her career at Berney Elementary before transferring to the Curriculum Department in 2001. She has been working in the Superintendent’s Office for the past seven years. We will miss you!



Big Blue Boosters Wa-Hi track donation

Photo L-R: School Board President Sam Wells, Wa-Hi PE teacher and track coach Eric Hisaw, and Big Blue Boosters Track Fundraising chair Scott Krivoshein celebrate the donation of \$650,000 from the Big Blue Boosters fundraising campaign for a new track. The school district contributed \$150,000 to the track project as well. The project is expected to begin this summer and be completed by the fall. Thanks to the Big Blue Boosters.

