

Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | September 15, 2015

Summer School

Programs support learning needs



Laure Quaresma

This summer nearly 500 Walla Walla Public Schools students attended summer school programs, according to a school board report last night from Assistant Superintendent Laure Quaresma. Results were impressive.

Approximately 90% of the third grade students in need of additional math and reading support made gains. The district was also able to issue nine diplomas after students earned enough credits to graduate. There were also many STEM opportunities through 21st Century programs. Special Education programs were also available.

“Summer learning loss contributes substantially to the achievement gap. Students who attend summer programs have better outcomes than similar peers who do not attend these programs.”

National Summer Learning Association

District revises 2015-16 calendar – No school Friday, Oct. 2

The school board voted unanimously to approve revisions to the 2015-2016 school year calendar. The changes include moving the May 13 Teacher Professional Day to Friday, October 2.

As a result, there will be no school Friday, Oct. 2 to allow for a Teacher Professional Day. School will be in session Friday, May 13. The kindergarten through fifth grade early dismissal scheduled for Friday, Oct. 2 has been moved to Friday, April 1. All students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade will be dismissed early Friday, April 1 to allow for teacher academic planning.

“October is a great time do a Teacher Pro-

fessional Day since teachers have had a chance to get to know their students, assess their academic and social needs and develop specific plans to move students forward,” said Walla Walla Valley Education Association President Margo Piver. “We use collaboration time to look at data to identify the specific needs of students and develop targeted learning goals which have the greatest impact on academic achievement.”

The revised calendar is posted within the calendar section of the district’s website (www.wgps.org) and hard copies are available at schools and the district office.

Board Meeting Highlights

■ APPROVED . . .

Personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra/co-curricular contracts, Sept. 15 accounts payable and August financial report, 2015-16 district insurance renewal, Board of Directors meeting schedule: January to July 2016, Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance, Head Start budget revision, Superintendent’s contract, and WWVEA contract.

■ Enrollment above target . . .

Business Services Executive Director Ted Cohan reported September’s enrollment figures are above the 5710 FTE target the district set for its 2015-2016 budget. The September FTE count rests at 5688, but this figure does not include Running Start and Alternative Education Program (AEP) students attending classes at Walla Walla Community College. Running Start and AEP typically draw approximately 150 FTE students, which would put the district comfortably over its beginning year target. Cohan said the October count is a more accurate reflection of the enrollment picture for the year. He said he will closely monitor enrollment counts each month for the rest of the school year, but is optimistic the district is on solid footing regarding enrollment.

Excellence in Every Classroom

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated

STACEY KLINGENBERG | TITLE I/FIFTH GRADE (TEMP)
Blue Ridge Elementary

Classified:

CATHERINE FINE | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)
Walla Walla High School

KASEY HILL | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)
Prospect Point Elementary

KENT MAYBERRY | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)
Walla Walla High School

RACHAEL NEUSCHWANDER | PARA-EDUCATOR
Special Education

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Classified:

JAZMIN GONZALEZ | 2 YEARS | BLUE RIDGE

EDWARD NAKONIECZNY | 10 YEARS | FACILITIES

VICTORIA REARDON | 1 YEAR | WA-HI

KATHERINE ROWLETTE | 15.5 YEARS | GARRISON

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL ...

Matt Bona, Jennifer Cowgill, Kim Doepker, Sergio Hernandez, Angelica Pedroza and Laure Quaresma to attend LaCosecha Conference in Albuquerque, NM (Funding: Bilingual and Basic Education)

Dennis Matson to attend Program Development - Pathway STEM in New Orleans, LA (Funding: CTE)

Vivian Glaeser to attend Western Division AVID in Denver, CO (Funding: AVID)

Stacy Shake and **Sarah Zipf** to attend School Dude University in San Diego, CA (Funding: Technology Professional Growth)

Quote of the Week

“You can never be overdressed or overeducated.”

Oscar Wilde

Anti-bullying

Thompson talks about good choices

Last week Bullying Prevention Specialist Mark Thompson met with fourth and fifth grade students at Berney and Sharpstein Elementary to talk about treating people kindly and making good choices. His discussion focused on character development, self regulation, self reflection and thinking before you speak or act.

“The message this year is to see fellow students as ice bergs,” Thompson said. “You only see 10 percent of who someone is and it is what is below the surface that is important.”

Thompson has 20 years experience in risk management and bullying prevention. He speaks nationally on the topic with large organizations, including NFL teams and NCAA athletic programs. Thompson’s presence in schools is part of the district’s risk management program in partnership with the Safe and Civil Schools Committee. Thompson plans to visit numerous schools this school year. He will also meet with staff on these issues. Earlier this summer, Thompson provided a training to all district administrators.

ThoughtExchange - Join the Conversation

Walla Walla Public Schools invites you to “Join the Conversation” through a community engagement process known as ThoughtExchange. The Fall 2015 conversation will focus on quality education.

Parents, staff, students and community members will have an opportunity to participate via this online learning process beginning Oct. 6 through Oct. 16. All staff will receive an email invite automatically. Parents and those who sign up for Enews will also receive an email inviting them to engage.

Community members and students will have the opportunity to self-register by visiting the district website (www.wgps.org) and clicking on the ThoughtExchange logo. This process is available in English and Spanish.

No School
Friday, October 2
Teacher Professional Day