

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 20, 2015

Early Learning focus

District to offer kindergarten readiness programs at all elementary schools



Kerri Coffman

Walla Walla Public Schools is taking further action to invest in early childhood education by establishing kindergarten readiness programs at all six elementary schools. According to the 2014 WaKIDS assessment, 32.3 percent of new kindergartners demonstrate age-typical development in all areas -- academically and cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally.

The district allocated \$45,000 from the 2015-2016 General Fund budget to support the Love and Logic - Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun program for Prospect Point, Green Park and Berney. Sharpstein, Blue Ridge and Edison receive Title I funds

and will feature the Ready for Kindergarten program.

Head Start/ECEAP Director Kerri Coffman will serve as the coach and mentor for a new Parent Involvement coordinator who will manage the program. The district expects to hire a person this fall.

The kindergarten readiness programs will be literacy-based with a heavy emphasis on parents reading to their children. A public outreach plan will be launched to help inform parents about the services. Coffman said they will work tirelessly to find families with pre-kindergarten aged children and get them into district schools for support.



Last week Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan was recognized at the Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition luncheon for the district's support of early learning programs in the Walla Walla School District.

City of Walla Walla Police Chief Scott Bieber was the event's master of ceremonies. He presented Dr. Jordan with the award.

Board Meeting Highlights

■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Oct. 6 school board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra/co-curricular contracts, October 20 accounts payable and September financial report.

- Resolution 06-2015 Interscholastic Activity Cooperative

Update: Board members received an update on the proposed Teen Center next to Lincoln High School. This agency funded center could open in 2017.

■ Enrollment Update . . .

Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan reported the district is planning a work session December 15 to discuss potential uses for the additional revenue generated by this year's enrollment count. The district's enrollment target after the second official count is approximately 160 FTEs above beginning year projections. The district set its target at 5710 FTE for the 2015-2016 budget. The October FTE count rests at 5871, which includes Running Start and Alternative Education Program (AEP) students attending classes at Walla Walla Community College. Each FTE generates \$6,319.25 in revenue.

Jordan said the public work session will provide an opportunity for dialogue and input for how to best use the additional revenue.

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated

DONNA CURRIER | SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST (.2 TEMP)
Special Education

Classified:

CHANDLER HIPPAUF | PARA-EDUCATOR
Prospect Point Elementary

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS ...

Classified:

ARLENE MORENO | 20 YEARS | EDISON
- EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2016

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Classified

JESSE TORRES | PARA-EDUCATOR, GREEN PARK
- January through June 2016 (*student teaching*)

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

Dr. Bill Jordan to attend National School Board Association Annual Conference 2016 in Boston, MA (Funding: Superintendent's Travel)

Cindy Nass to attend Don Johnston Company Leadership Summit in Chicago, IL (Funding: Don Johnston Company)

Jason Parsons to attend National Baseball Coaches Association National Conference in Nashville, TN (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)

Quote of the Week

"Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him and let him know that you trust him."

-Booker T. Washington

New Superintendent Staff Survey and Focus groups

The search to find a new Walla Walla Public Schools superintendent is underway as current Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan is retiring June 30. The first opportunity for staff to participate in the process is completing an online survey now open through Nov. 2 on the district website – www.wwps.org. This survey seeks to find the leadership characteristics and qualities the community is looking for in a new superintendent.

The district is also planning a staff focus group meeting Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the central office board room (364 S. Park St.). Former Walla Walla Superintendent and search consultant Dr. Dennis Ray of Northwest Leadership Associates will lead the staff meeting. This meeting is open to all Walla Walla Public Schools staff.

Interviews are scheduled to begin in February with the new superintendent named in March. The new superintendent's first day in the district is July 1.

ThoughtExchange - "Star" phase next

The "share" phase of the Fall 2015 ThoughtExchange community engagement process is now completed. This fall's engagement is focused on quality education.

A total of 237 participants shared 785 thoughts. The process now moves to the "star" phase. Parents, staff, students and community members will have an opportunity to review the thoughts of others and align their priorities with the others. The star process will begin later this week. All staff and parents will receive an email invitation to the "star" process.

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

Remember to Vote - November 3
Ballots have been mailed out to voters.