

Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | December 15, 2015

Sleep Study concludes

Study reveals stakeholders do not want changes to Wa-Hi's class time schedule



Ted Cohan

Following months of study, input gathering and discussion, the Sleep Study Committee will not bring a recommendation to the Superintendent to change the schedule at Walla Walla High School. The proposal was to move the current first period start time of 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. based on studies teens need more sleep.

"The committee discovered more clearly during this process at least 50 percent of Walla Walla High School students already start their day at 8:30 a.m.," said Committee Chair Ted Cohan. "Community support in Walla Walla allows the district to offer a seven period day at Wa-Hi which provides much more flexibility in scheduling classes."

Nearly 1400 people completed the survey which asked what schedule was preferred. Approximately 70 percent wanted the schedule to remain the same.

The primary concerns of changing the schedule centered on less time in the evening for homework, student employment schedule conflicts, extra-curricular activities disruptions and missed class time for those involved in activities.

"It was important to go through this extensive process to determine if this was the right fit for Walla Walla," said Cohan. "The community prefers the current schedule and it will remain in effect going forward."

Sounds of the Holidays

Walla Walla High School student-musicians Hannah Cabasco (junior) and Keeli McKern (freshman) perform holiday selections for school board members.

Thanks to all the district's music teachers for all the additional work in preparing students for the district's Holiday Concert Series.



Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Nov. 17, 2015 school board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, December 1 accounts payable and November payroll, and December 15 accounts payable.

- Policy 5240 Evaluation of Staff.

One-time expenditure update . . .

The district underspent its 2014-15 budget by approximately 2.5 percent. A spending plan for this one-time funding is being developed with broad staff input. The school board will meet on this topic Thursday for additional discussion.

Enrollment/Budget update . . .

Enrollment remains 192 FTE students above budget projections.

Board Officers elected . . .

School board members unanimously elected Cindy Meyer as school board president and Dr. David Hampson as vice president.

Oath of Office . . .

Superior Court Judge John Lohmann administered the oath of office for board members Dr. David Hampson, Ruth Ladderud and Derek Sarley.

Excellence in Every Classroom

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated

NONE TO REPORT

Classified:

DANICA BENTLEY | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)

Green Park Elementary

KIMBERLY BURR | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)

Sharpstein Elementary

LESLIE COLLINS | CERTIFIED PT ASSIST.

Special Education

RICHARD JIMENEZ | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)

Walla Walla High School

NICHOLE MICHELS | HEAD SECRETARY

Edison Elementary

AMBER MILLER | INTERVENTION SPECIALIST (TEMP)

Edison Elementary

SERGIO OROZCO | PARA-EDUCATOR

Garrison Middle School

EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED ...

VIRGINIA ROMFH | ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Walla Walla High School

ARIANA VALVERDE | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)

Prospect Point Elementary

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Classified

LEAH DIAZ | PARA-EDUCATOR, WA-HI - FOUR MONTHS

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

- Ted Cohan to attend National School Response Conference in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Business Office)
- Conor Fish to attend Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coach's Professional Growth)
- Laure Quaresma, Maria Garcia, Pam Clayton, Kim Locken, Robert Elizondo, Kim Ramsey, Shelly Crump, Shannon DeBeaumont, Susan Nakonieczny and Kim Doepker to attend 2016 National Title I Conference in

Professional Learning

Grant allows study of effective systems

The district has formed a Professional Learning Committee thanks to a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant. This committee will work alongside 33 other school districts -- including Seattle, Sunnyside, and Highline -- to enhance instructional practices. The group is developing a mission statement, goals and plans for a Summer Institute in Walla Walla to provide a variety of learning opportunities for district staff. Stay tuned for much more information in the coming weeks and months.

Committee Membership:

- Laure Quaresma, Assistant Superintendent (Chair)
- Sergio Hernandez, Equity and Access Coordinator
- Libby Thompson, Special Education Director
- Christy Krutulis, Berney Elementary Principal
- Angelica Pedroza, Bilingual Coordinator
- Mindy Meyer, Walla Walla High School Asst. Principal
- Marci Knauff, Lincoln High School Principal
- Maria Garcia, Assessment and Rtl Coordinator
- Casey Monahan, Literacy Curriculum Coordinator
- Mira Gobel, Pioneer Middle School Principal
- Forrest Baker, Technology Director

ThoughtExchange Fall 2015 results

This fall, nearly 600 parents, staff, students and community members participated in our latest ThoughtExchange engagement centered on how the community defines a quality education. Here's what we discovered.

Top Five Responses to Question 1

(Quality education experiences)

1. Quality teachers and staff
2. Individualized instruction
3. Extracurricular
4. Curriculum and programming
5. Whole child education

Top Five Responses to Question 2

(Areas for new opportunities)

1. Facilities and infrastructure
2. Vocational and experiential learning
3. Extracurricular
4. Testing vs. learning
5. Technology

A complete listing of the results, by school, is coming soon on the district website at www.wwps.org (click on the ThoughtExchange logo)