

Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | March 3, 2016

New Superintendent Hermiston Deputy Superintendent to take helm of Walla Walla Public Schools



Wade Smith

The Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors unanimously named Mr. Wade Smith the district's new superintendent pending successful contract negotiations. Smith will begin July 1, 2016 following the retirement of current Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan.

Smith has been Interim/Deputy Superintendent for the Hermiston School District since 2011. He assumed the role of superintendent for Hermiston School District from 2011 to 2013 while the superintendent was on military leave abroad. He was also Assistant Superintendent for Support Services for Hermiston School District for

four years and Assistant Superintendent and Principal of the Morrow County School District. He has been a secondary education science teacher in the Long Creek School District. Mr. Smith is enrolled in a doctorate program through Concordia University.

"My parents are the two hardest working people I have ever met and have instilled in me a strong work ethic and character centered on the importance of developing relationships," Smith said. "We are excited to move to Walla Walla and become part of this amazing community and school district steeped in a tradition of excellence."

Smith is married to Marianne, an art teacher at Hermiston High School. They have two daughters, Emily, 6th grade and Cheyenne, 9th grade. He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time at his lake cabin. Smith is a first generation college student and son of a drywall contractor and school secretary.



Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Feb. 16, 2016 public work session and board meeting and Feb. 17-19 special board meetings and executive sessions, and Feb. 29, March 1 and March 2, 2016 special board meeting and executive sessions, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, Non-athletic extra and co-curricular contracts, March 3 accounts payable and February payroll and board meeting schedule: July-December 2016.

Minimum Fund Balance . . .

School board members approved Policy 6022 which calls for the district to maintain a General Fund balance reserve of 6 to 8 percent. This is a new policy recommended by WSSDA to help ensure financial stability.

Enrollment/Budget update . . .

The district's enrollment grew by two students this month compared to February figures, according to Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan. We usually see dips in enrollment this time of the year so this is a good sign going forward, he said. The district's General Fund spending rests at 47 percent of the budget, right on target for this time of the year. Budget discussions for 2016-17 are underway.

Excellence in Every Classroom

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated:

JESSE TORRES | BILINGUAL EDUCATION
Sharpstein Elementary

FELIPE VIRRUETA | BILINGUAL EDUCATION
Blue Ridge Elementary

Classified:

CATHERINE FINE | PARA-EDUCATOR
Walla Walla High School

JORGE GALLAGA | TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST
Technology Department

TAMARA TUCKER | PAYROLL COORDINATOR
Business Office

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Certificated

DENNIS BENNETT | PIONEER MS - 24 YEARS

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

DANIEL CALZARETTA | PIONEER MS - 9 YEARS

ARTHUR CURRY | WA-HI - 17 YEARS

CINDY DAVES | BERNEY - 9 YEARS

SARA ERWIN | EDISON - 17 YEARS

CARRIE GIVENS | PROSPECT PT - 7 YEARS

JACQUELYNE LEWIS | WA-HI - 24 YEARS

CHRIS NEESE BLACKMAN | WA-HI - 11 YEARS

COLLEEN OCHOCINSKI | PIONEER MS - 2 YEARS

LINDA SEIBOLD | SHARPSTEIN - 32 YEARS

(LINDA WILL CONTINUE .5 FTE LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST)

Classified

CLINTON FRENCH | GARRISON MS - 25 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Certificated

SARA VAN DONGE | PIONEER MS, 14.5 YRS

- Half-time leave for remainder of 2015-16 school year

Classified

ANNE MARIE JONES | PIONEER MS, 1 YR

- August-December 2016 for student teacher practicum

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

- Laura Berg, Kris Bland, Kim Butenhoff, Kim Doepker, Lori Finn, Phyllis Garanzuay, Stephanie Gomsrud, Berta Herrera-Trejo, Corey Hobbs, Jeremy Hubbard, Liza Jacobson, Marci Knauft, Brandi McIntire, Joyce Moreno, and Ronni Tobin to attend 2016 AVID Summer Institute in Denver, CO (Funding: Title I/AVID, Focus Grant)

- Matt Bona, Danae Darby, Eva Matson, Claudia Saldivar and Andrea Valencia to attend 2016 AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, CA (Funding: Title I/AVID, Focus Grant)

- Nathan Carrara, Caitlin Duncan, Nicole Duncan, Kyle Eggers, Maria Garcia, Stephanie Gomsrud, Ron Higgins, Julie Hill, Corey Hobbs, Jeremy Hubbard, Carrie LaRoy, Anne Schulz, and Twyla Swanson to attend 2016 NCTM Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA (Funding: Title I/Title II)



Professional Learning Communities to support student achievement

Walla Walla Public Schools is excited to announce Jump StartED 2016. This dynamic opportunity offers participants three paid days (per diem) of local professional learning August 9-11. Jump StartED 2016 focuses on teachers as learners, professional learning communities, and integrating technology in learning, both for students and teachers. We plan to offer a variety of break-out sessions to meet the professional learning needs of all teachers. Don't miss this opportunity to grow professionally and jump start your school year. School board members will attend special events and report highlights during school board meetings on activities at these schools.

Keynote Speakers

Jeff Utecht: He is an educational technology consultant, educator and author. See more about Jeff Utecht at: <http://edurolearning.com/wired-with-wine/jeff-utecht/>

Joellen Killion: She is Senior Advisor for Learning Forward. See more about Joellen Killion at: <http://learningforward.org/>

Greg Benner: He specializes in preventive approaches for meeting the academic and social/emotional needs of students. See more about Greg Brenner at: <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/strongschools/aboutus.html>

Retirees' Appreciation Week

Retired school employees are being honored for their service and support March 14-20 during School Retirees Appreciation Week.

"This week we thank retired school employees for their dedication to the education profession," said Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan. "We value their continued involvement in our schools and appreciate their commitment to public education."