

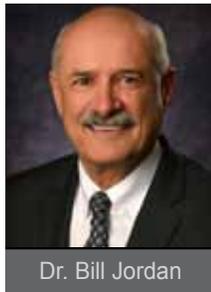
Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | June 21, 2016

Jordan says good-bye Community gathers to say thank you to Dr. Bill Jordan upon his retirement



Dr. Bill Jordan

District stakeholders flocked to the Anne Golden Boardroom to honor Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan who is retiring at the end of the month. Dr. Jordan came out of retirement in the summer of 2014 to lead the district the past two years. Highlights for Dr. Jordan include passing this year's levy with the highest yes percentage since 2002, school board professional development and reorganizing the district office with more focus on teaching and learning.

His career in education spans nearly 50 years -- including classroom stints, coaching

and numerous administrative assignments. After growing up in Lewiston, Idaho, he began as a classroom teacher at Pioneer Junior High School. He eventually worked his way to the number two position at the State Superintendent's Office. Dr. Jordan completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Idaho and his master's and doctorate degrees at Washington State University.

"This is where it all started for me and it's been an honor to serve," Dr. Jordan said. "I'm excited for the district and its future."

Hansen to lead district athletic programs

New Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal Dirk Hansen has been named the district's Athletic Director. Hansen will also oversee Physical Education teachers at Walla Walla High School. Hansen replaces current Walla Walla High School Athletic Director Jack Mehn who held the position the past two school years. Mehn's focus shifts to AVID and academic achievement.

"This move plays to the strength of both these great leaders," said Walla Walla High School Principal Pete Peterson. "Dirk will continue in a role in which he has demonstrated excellence, and Jack will use his vast classroom and administrative experience to help advance our Curriculum and Instruction initiatives."



Hansen was named the 2016 3A Greater St. Helens Athletic Director of the Year.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the June 7, 2016 board meetings, personnel report, out-of-state travel, June 21 accounts payable and May financial report. No other action items.

ThoughtExchange update . . .

The latest engagement, the district's third with ThoughtExchange, was designed to provide input for a Strategic Plan. Participation was open between March 21 and April 25, 2016 with 562 people taking part and contributing 1,302 thoughts and 37,116 "stars." The majority of participants were parents and staff.

Top Five Themes to Question 1 (How the district can grow)

1. Behavior / ACES Challenges
2. Teacher/Principal Support
3. Walla Walla High School
4. General Facility Comments
5. Student Health and Wellness

Top Five Responses to Question 2 (Areas in which the district is doing well)

1. Quality Teachers and Staff
2. Extracurricular Programs
3. Technology
4. Dual Language Education
5. Art, Music and Drama Programs

A complete listing of the results, by school and for the district, is at www.wwps.org. Simply click on the ThoughtExchange logo.

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Administrative:

JOHN GRIFFITH | DIRECTOR
SE Transportation Co-Op

Certificated:

JULIE BRAZIL | THIRD GRADE (TEMP)
Green Park Elementary

DAVID CLEARMAN | FIFTH GRADE (TEMP)
Green Park Elementary

MONICA FRANK | SPECIAL EDUCATION (.5FTE)
Garrison Middle School

KAREN HANSON | FIRST GRADE
Prospect Point Elementary

GARRETT JONES | MATH
Lincoln HS/Wa-Hi

AMY SERRA | LANGUAGE ARTS
Garrison Middle School

Classified:

JESSIKA CHAPMAN | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)
Pioneer Middle School

ROCIO DE LA TORRE | BEHAVIOR RM INTER. SP.
Berney Elementary

OLIVIA WHITE | LIBRARY TECHNICIAN
Garrison Middle School

ANN WILSON | PARA-EDUCATOR
Pioneer Middle School

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

Certificated

NICHOLE RIGGS | WA-HI CHOIR - 5 YEARS

Classified

KAREN TELLO | SPECIAL ED. PARA - 1 YEAR

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Classified

ERIKA FRANCO | EDISON PARA-EDUCATOR, 2 YRS

- Erika will serve as Edison Bilingual secretary, 2016-2017

JAIMEE ROSSI | GREEN PARK PARA-EDUCATOR, 1 YR

- January through May 2017 to complete student teaching

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

- Lindsey Butcher, Jessica Johnson and Arch McHie to attend FFA Chapter Office Retreat in Sun River, OR (Funding: CTE/ASB)
- Barbara Buttice, Julie Cox, Dirk Hansen, Jill Meliah and Alyssa Moreno to attend AVID Summer Institute in Denver, CO (Funding: Title I, AVID)
- Maria Garcia to attend AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, CA (Funding: AVID)
- Angie Pedroza to attend Direct Instruction Conference in Eugene, OR (Funding: Title I)
- Doug Poulson to attend Wrestling Camp in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)

Quote of the Week

“Children have to be educated, but they have also to be left to educate themselves.”

Ernest Dimnet

Willow School Update
School set to open August 2017

Willow School Executive Director Dan Calzaretta reported to the school board last night the school is planning to open August 2017 at the former ACE of Clubs location. Calzaretta said the school will initially open with 6th and 7th grade students and add 8th grade students in 2018. He anticipates 60 students per grade level.

Calzaretta is seeking to collaborate with the district on professional development, special education, transportation, assessments, best practices and enrollment coordination. He said all students will have equal chances of enrollment through a lottery planned for February 2017. It will be a tuition-free public school and open to all students. Calzaretta said he has already met with Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan, incoming Superintendent Wade Smith and Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea about collaboration opportunities and transition planning. He is scheduled to have quarterly meetings with Superintendent Smith.

District studies Wa-Hi electrical system

Facilities and Operations Director Dan Johnson reported the district is working with Walla Walla Electric and Grassi Heating and Cooling to determine what is needed to add air conditioning at Walla Walla High School. Johnson said a plan needs to be developed and reviewed to assess the school's electrical load capacity. The school was built in 1963 and was not designed for this level of electrical output, according to Johnson.

“It is a complicated and expensive process,” Johnson said. “It’s not a matter of just putting air conditioning units in window openings.”

Johnson said he has no firm date of when the assessment and cost analysis will be completed.