

Walla Walla Public Schools

# 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 4, 2016

## 2016-17 Goals update *Literacy and math focus of school site-based initiatives*



Chris Gardea

Last night, Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea and district principals presented to school board members a progress report on 2016-2017 goals centered on literacy, math and high school retention rates.

Site-based initiatives are in place at all schools to help make gains in the 2016-2017 Student Performance Target areas. Principals discussed the identified focus strategies, measurement tools being used and techniques for monitoring and providing support. Clearly defined and measurable performance goals for student achievement, with a level of autonomy for schools to meet

### 2016-2017 Student Performance Targets

- Increase Elementary and Middle School Literacy and Math Achievement
- Improve High School Retention Rates

the targets, was a theme heard last night. Another progress report to the school board is scheduled this winter.

"I am excited to watch our buildings prosper this year and look forward to supporting each of the campuses as we make progress on these site-based initiatives," said Superintendent Wade Smith.

### School board seeks staff input for Strategic Planning process

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors are planning a series of community and staff outreach sessions this month in English and Spanish to get input to inform a long-range Strategic Planning initiative currently underway. Board President Cindy Meyer reports these listening sessions are designed to help the school board and administration gain insight on the district's strengths as well as challenges. Two school board members and the superintendent will be leading each of the sessions.

The district is launching an online survey today through Oct. 21, in English and Spanish, also aimed at gathering input on strengths and challenges.

The survey link and information on the staff listening sessions will be emailed to staff this week and is on [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org).



Cindy Meyer

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the September 20, 2016 special board meeting and regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, non-athletic extra and co-curricular contracts, October 4 accounts payable and September payroll, general fund imprest changes and Highly Capable Committee membership.

First Readings of Policies: 1310, 1330, 1400, 1420, 1440, 1450, 2020, 3240, 4218, 5001, 5610, 6882

### Budget/Enrollment Update . . .

Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan reported the 2015-2016 Budget is expected to be officially closed later this month following a review from ESD123. He expects the ending fund balance to be at or above projections. The October enrollment count was captured earlier this week. Cohan said the district is slightly above budgeted projections to begin the year.

### High School update . . .

Wa-Hi Junior Chloe Williams provided the school board with an update on school activities. It's Homecoming Week. Wa-Hi plays Pasco Friday night in football. Trunk-or-Treat is planning its Halloween event Oct. 31. The FFA is doing a raffle fundraiser. Visit the Wa-Hi website for details.

Excellence in Every Classroom

PERSONNEL  
REPORT

**EMPLOYMENT ...**

*Classified:*

- RICHARD EAGON | TRANSPORTATION (BUS DRIVER)
- ANGELIA EWELL | TRANSPORTATION (BUS DRIVER)
- GARY LEVALLEY | TRANSPORTATION (BUS DRIVER)
- ITANDEHUI TREJO | PROSPECT PT. (INTERVENTION)

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

*Classified*

- CATHERINE BLETHEN | PIONEER - 5 MONTHS
- ROCIO DE LA TORRE | BERNEY - 1 MONTH
- BECKY MILLER | TRANSPORTATION - 27 YEARS
- SERGIO OROZCO | GARRISON MS - 7 MONTHS

**OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL ...**

- Yazmin Bahena, Robert Elizondo, Sergio Hernandez, Carey Knifong, Gina McDonnell, Kim Ramsey, Amy Reed, Claudia Salazar, Curtis Schafer and Andrea Valencia to attend Dual Language Conference in Santa Fe, NM (Funding: State Bilingual, Principal Professional Development, Teaching and Learning)
- Angelica Pedroza to attend AVID Excel Conference in Fullerton, CA (Funding: State Bilingual)
- Justin Vernon and Gina Yonts to attend 2016-2017 Learning Forward Conference in Vancouver, BC (Funding: Principal Professional Development, Title I)

**Quote of the Week**

“The Best way to predict your Future is to create it.”

Abraham Lincoln

**Highly Capable Committee**  
*Board approves membership*

**Committee’s notes and highlights posted on district webpage**

Last night, the school board officially approved the membership of the Highly Capable Program Recommendation Committee (HCC). Last week, Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea conducted the group’s first meeting. This committee is comprised of parents, teachers, principals, a School Board Member (non-voting), the Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, Assistant Superintendent and the Superintendent.

The committee is tasked with providing a kindergarten through twelfth grade program recommendation to the Board of Directors on May 2, 2017, to be considered for implementation beginning the 2017-18 school year. Visit the Highly Capable/Explorer program page on the district website for updates and reports from the committee’s work.

**Highly Capable Program Recommendation Committee (HCC):**

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Joy Bader (Parent)                  | Shannon Bergevin (Parent)          |
| Megan Blair-Cabasco (MS Teacher)    | Mary Burt (HS Teacher)             |
| Mary Cortinas (Elem. Teacher)       | Kim Doepker (Elem. Principal)      |
| Bruce Dumser (Parent)               | Robert Elizondo (MS Principal)     |
| Cheryl Heller (Thrive)              | Holly Howard (Parent)              |
| Tim Justice (Parent)                | Barbara Mosher (Parent)            |
| Erica Munsey (Parent)               | Erin Pahlke (Parent)               |
| Pete Peterson (HS Principal)        | Suzanne Sullivan (Parent)          |
| Becky Waggoner-Schwartz (Parent)    | Sam Wells (Board Member)           |
| Chris Gardea (Asst. Superintendent) | Wade Smith (Superintendent)        |
| Kay Schisler (Admin Support)        | Christy Krutulius (Exec. Dir. T&L) |
| Susie Golden (Admin Support)        |                                    |

**Golden Onion Award Recipients named**

Last night Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea honored Kate VanCleve (Prospect Point Elementary 5th grade teacher), Angie Gardea (Garrison Middle School counselor) and Aaron Martin (Walla Walla High School teacher) as recipients of the 2016 Gillespie Golden Onion grant and award. Each recipient receives \$500 for use in their classroom or to better their teaching skills and a plaque in their honor.

Longtime Walla Walla resident and one-time teacher Sue Gillespie and her husband Mike established the “Golden Onion Award” to provide school supplies, equipment and professional development funds to Walla Walla educators.

