

Walla Walla Public Schools

# 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 18, 2016

## Strategic Planning *Board of Directors review student performance data*



Christy Krutulis

School board members conducted a special meeting for a quantitative data review in support of the Strategic Plan Initiative. Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis, Director of Assessment Kerri Coffman and Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea coordinated the data collection project, which include 35 performance indicators.

Data being studied includes state test scores, attendance, discipline and graduation rates. It also addresses budget impacts on learning, staff experience levels and the impact of poverty and language acquisition on academic performance.

Of the 35 indicators researched, only three reflect improved performance or results superior to state averages. Twenty

of the data points reveal the district has stayed about the same or is at or below state averages, while 12 indicators reveal district performance has decreased and lost ground with state performance targets.

One area capturing attention of the school board and Superintendent Wade Smith is the remediation rate for post secondary education. Walla Walla's remediation rate has increased for graduates who go on to college needing to take remedial classes. On average, the state remediation rate for post secondary education is declining, while Walla Walla's rate is increasing, cresting above 50 percent in Math and Language Arts remediation. A summary of the data review is located on the district's home webpage.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### ■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the October 4, 2016 special board meeting and regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra-curricular athletic contracts, October 18 accounts payable, September financial report and excused absence for Director Mrs. Ladderud.

*Second Reading and Approval of Policies:* 1310, 1330, 1400, 1420, 1440, 1450, 2020, 3240, 4218, 5001, 5610, 6882

### ■ Enrollment Update . . .

Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan reported the district's official enrollment count for October is 5791 FTE. This figure, which includes Running Start and Alternative Education Programs at Walla Walla Community College, is 32 students above budget projections. Cohan says he expects the 2016-2017 enrollment count to remain slightly above the 5760 FTE budget projection.

### ■ Superintendent Entry Plan update . . .

Superintendent Smith updated the school board on his entry plan work. He has met with more than 200 community members and parents since July. He has also participated in numerous focus groups listening sessions and has started his service club outreach. He met with Sunrise Rotary and Exchange Club earlier this month. This week, he addresses Kiwanis and noon Rotary Clubs.

## Staff Strategic Plan Listening Sessions and Survey

The district has two staff listening sessions remaining to get input to inform a long-range Strategic Planning initiative currently underway. Meeting details: Oct. 19 from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. at Berney and Oct. 27 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Garrison MS. These meetings are designed to help the school board and administration gain insight on the district's strengths as well as opportunities for growth. The district has also launched an online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XH89859>) open through Oct. 21. Staff input is greatly needed and appreciated. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.

Excellence in Every Classroom

**EMPLOYMENT . . .**

**Classified:**

ERIN BREN | GREEN PARK (TEMP PARA-EDUCATOR)  
 INGRID OLSEN-YOUNG | GREEN PARK (PARA-EDUCATOR)  
 ALEXIS VEZINA | TRANSPORTATION (BUS ASSISTANT)

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

**Classified**

DEBBIE ADAMSON | GREEN PARK - 6 MONTHS  
 MYRNA NOTTURNO | WA-HI - 15 YEARS  
 (MYRNA WILL CONTINUE IN HER POSITION AS A BUS DRIVER)  
 TAMARA WILLIS | LINCOLN HS - 1 YEAR

**OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

- Lori Finn to attend JEA National Conference in Indianapolis, IN (Funding: CTE)
- Amy Hisaw and Eric Hisaw to attend 2017 NSCA Coaches Conference in Nashville, TN (Funding: Coaches' Professional Growth)
- Catherine Wolpert to attend NAEYC's 2016 Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA (Funding: Head Start &

**Quote of the Week**

"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward."

Vernon Law

**Willow Charter School**  
*School board meets with Willow Director*

As Willow Charter School continues plans to open at the former ACE of Clubs in August 2017 for sixth and seventh grade students with eighth grade joining in 2018, the Board of Directors invited Director Dan Calzaretta in for an additional discussion on the school.

In advance of last night's meeting, school board members sent Calzaretta a letter which included 19 questions aimed at helping them get better acquainted with the new school. Questions included details on enrollment projections, anticipated student demographics, teacher recruitment strategies, WWPS programs Willow students would like to participate in and future business partnerships.

Last night, Calzaretta reported they are planning for 120 students next school year with a maximum of 220 students within five years. He said plans are in place to hire six teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. Calzaretta thanked the school board for allowing him to share additional information and answer questions. He is seeking a collaborative relationship with the district which includes sharing information about students and professional development coordination.

As part of its goal to be more transparent prior to making any major decisions, school board members asked Superintendent Wade Smith to formulate options for future collaborations with Willow Charter School. School board members will schedule a future meeting to further discuss this issue and receive stakeholder input. Superintendent Smith mentioned the district currently collaborates with other regional districts on a variety of issues and could consider a similar relationship with Willow. No decisions were made last night.

**Mr. Whitman features Paper Tigers**

The 2016 Mr. Whitman fundraiser is supporting The Health Center at Lincoln High School this year. One of the fundraising activities includes a free public showing of the Paper Tigers documentary Saturday at 4 p.m. at Maxey Auditorium as part of Whitman College Parents Weekend. Following the movie, another "vote with your dollar" and silent action event with Lincoln student artwork is planned. Proceeds to go to the Lincoln Health Center.

"We chose the health center because of their obvious passion and the impact they have made in the lives of students," said Meghan Ash, event co-chair. "Throughout the campaign, members of the fraternity and the male contestants participating have been fundraising and making an effort to connect with the community at Lincoln High School."

Monday, Lincoln High School Juniors and Seniors traveled to Whitman campus for a college readiness event sponsored by the Mr. Whitman. Friday, a Silent Auction in the Reid Campus Center is planned from 3 to 7 p.m.

Seven men will vie for the title of Mr. Whitman 2016 in the 15th annual fundraising contest organized by the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Last year's fundraiser