

Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | March 7, 2017

Bilingual changes approved

*Edison named Dual Language school;
slow roll out lessens immediate impact*



Christy Krutulis

The Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors voted 4-1 to approve a recommendation from the Bilingual Education Recommendation Committee (BERC) to improve the district's Bilingual Education program to better meet the needs of students.

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis presented the recommendation to the school board Tuesday evening following a year and a half of committee work, a dozen parent meetings in English and Spanish, hundreds of survey responses from staff, parents and community members, and multiple classroom visits. School board members Cindy Meyer and Ruth Ladderud served on the committee.

"After a very extensive process and deep commitment from committee members, the School Board was presented with a recommendation that puts Walla Walla Public Schools on track to provide the best possible bilingual programming for its students," said Krutulis. "This also includes the addition of Spanish language classes at both middle schools."

The final approved recommendation to the School Board included the following:

Final Approved Recommendation

- The One School Model (maintains current program at Blue Ridge)
- Edison named "wall to wall" dual language elementary school
- Slow roll out model. The slow roll out allows students the opportunity to finish their elementary career in their current elementary school.

Dual Language Program Enrollment

- In the next week specific information regarding enrollment procedures and timelines will be published to ensure families desiring dual programming for kindergarten students for the 2017-18 school year have information about placement notification before the district's open enrollment period begins.

Main reasons to change current program:

1. Increase academic performance for non-English speaking students
2. Improve problematic "traditional" classrooms in dual language schools.
3. Increasing number of Hispanic students entering kindergarten with limited Spanish.
4. English-side academic struggles.
5. Lack of program alignment.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Feb. 28, 2017 special board meeting and regular board meeting, personnel report, out of state travel and March 7 Accounts Payable and February Payroll.

- Bilingual Program Recommendation
- Snow day calendar modification

Pioneer MS Principal position . . .

Pioneer Middle School Principal Mira Gobel has accepted the Director of Teaching and Learning position at ESD 123. Her last day with the school district is June 30 after 29 years of service. The district wishes Mira well in her new position and extends a heartfelt thank you for her years of service as a teacher and administrator.

The Pioneer Middle School Principal position is currently posted and closes March 27.

Classified Employees Week . . .

Last night, Superintendent Wade Smith thanked Public Schools Employees for their service in advance of next week's Classified Appreciation Week. Smith said PSE employees are critical to the district's mission and vision. PSE President John Kiefel and Vice President BJ Colvin addressed the school board on behalf of their membership. Colvin recounted his days as a student and how PSE employees had a profound impact on his education.

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Classified:

GARY LEVALLEY | TRANSPORTATION (BUS DRIVER)

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT . . .

Administrative:

MIRA GOBEL | PRINCIPAL, PIONEER MS, 29 YEARS

Certificated:

MADELINE DINSMORE | BERNEY, 1 YEAR

AUDREY SCHMID | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 11 YEARS

- RESIGNING .2 FTE - WILL CONTINUE AS A .8 FTE

Classified:

LAURIE FERRARO | TRANSPORTATION, 7 YEARS

MONIQUE MORRIS | SHARPSTEIN, 7 YEARS

JAZMIN ORNELAS | EDISON, 3 YEARS

TAMI SHELTON | EDISON, 19.5 YEARS

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL . . .

- Michael Locati to attend Speed and Power Summit in Bloomington, IN (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)
- Gina McDonnell to attend Title I National Conference in Long Beach, CA (Funding: Title I)
- Mark Mebes to attend JROTC National Championship in Anniston, AL (Funding: US Army/CTE)

Quote of the Week

“By learning you will teach; by teaching you will learn.”

Latin Proverb

Last day of school June 14

District not eligible for state waiver

Extreme winter weather conditions forced the cancelation of six school days this school year prompting the school board to unanimously approve a calendar revision pushing the last day of school to Wednesday, June 14 (early dismissal).

Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for Walla Walla County for missed days which landed within January 10 to 20, 2017. The district conducted extensive research to determine if it was eligible for a state waiver. Upon close review, it was determined the district did not meet the waiver criteria.

“Initially, we thought we would be able to apply for a waiver for the two days missed in January since school was canceled during the designated two week period,” Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea reported to the school board. “Before you can apply for a waiver for missed school days due to the winter weather, you must make a reasonable effort to make up the missed days as per WAC 392-129-105 and RCW 28A.150.220(2). School district’s must make up at least three days and extend its school year to and through June 14 to be granted a state waiver. Therefore, since we are able to complete the snow make-up days by June 14, we are not eligible for a state waiver.”

Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School’s originally scheduled graduation dates remain the same under the approved calendar revision. Lincoln High School’s graduation is Thursday, June 1 and Walla Walla High School’s graduation is Friday, June 2. Seniors will make up the three canceled days on Saturdays; April 29, May 6 and 13. These 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday learning sessions will include Advanced Placement test preparations, post high school planning, financial management instruction and career counseling. Finals schedules for seniors will remain as originally planned, May 30 to June 1. Finals for students in grades 9-11 will be held the last three days of school, June 12-14.

City honors Bill and Diana Erickson for service

Last night, Mayor Allen Pomraning announced March 7, 2017 as Diana and Bill Erickson Day for the City of Walla Walla. Pomraning read proclamations to the school board citing years of educational and community service to the children of Walla Walla. Diana and Bill Erickson are active with the Latino Club, Cinco de Mayo celebrations and Equity and Access Committee projects. Pomraning said their civic service was truly appreciated.



Mayor Allen Pomraning presents awards to Bill and Diana Erickson for a lifetime of service to community.