

Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | May 2, 2017

Curriculum Adoption

New Elementary English and Spanish Language Arts Materials



Christy Krutulis

The district took a giant leap forward last night in supporting the district's youngest learners by investing nearly \$500,000 in Pearson's ReadyGEN for K-5 English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts curriculum. This significant adoption provides teachers and students literacy materials, in Spanish and English, which are aligned to standards and rigorous enough to support students in becoming Washington's most sought after graduates.

"This is a critical step toward developing aligned and coherent systems and will pay dividends in years to come for student learning," said Curriculum Coordinator Casey Monahan.

This is the first adoption in this subject area in nine years. More than 40 staff worked for 18 months as part of this extensive process of adoption of materials.

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis says her team will continue to study the feedback from piloting teachers to develop a professional learning plan for the 2017-18 school year, and beyond, to support teachers in learning the new materials. Professional development opportunities will begin this summer and continue next year.



School board members go back to school as Curriculum Coordinator Casey Monahan simulates a 3rd grade lesson using the newly adopted materials.

ThoughtExchange: Remodeling aging facilities tops parents concerns

Remodeling aging facilities, improved heating and cooling systems and modern science labs topped the concerns list from parents as the district wraps up its latest ThoughtExchange engagement. More than 400 parents participated in the facilities needs discussion. This information will be used by the Community Facilities Task as it begins formulating solutions to the needs, in preparation of a November 2018 bond election. See all results on the district's webpage.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the April 17, 2017 special board meeting and April 18 regular board meeting and special meeting, personnel report, out of state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, May 2 Accounts Payable and April payroll, and Resolution 06-2017 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2017-18.

Policy First Readings . . .

School board members heard the first reading of the following Policy revisions:

- 1220: Board officers and duties
- 1810: Annual board goals/board evals
- 2110: Transitional Bilingual Instruction
- 2421: Promotion/Retention
- 3110: Attendance and Placement
- 3141: Nonresident students
- 3211: Transgender students
- 3421: Child Abuse/Neglect
- 4060: Distribution of materials
- 5253: Staff/student boundaries

Administrator recommendations . . .

Superintendent Wade Smith is recommending Victor Vergara as the new Director of Bilingual Education and Latino Outreach. He is also recommending Dr. Julie Perron as the new principal at Edison Elementary. Both have extensive experience and come highly referenced. The school board will consider the recommendations May 16.

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

**PERSONNEL
REPORT**

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Administrative:

KRISTINA DUNCAN | PIONEER MS (PRINCIPAL)

Classified:

ANA DIAZ | SHARPSTEIN (PARA-EDUCATOR)

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT . . .

Certificated:

ELIZABETH JAMES | SHARPSTEIN, 4 YEARS

Classified:

CHERYL DRUMHELLER | WA-HI, 29 YEARS

LIZETH ESPANA | EDISON, 5 MONTHS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE . . .

Classified:

JUANA RAMIREZ DE CERVANTES | GREEN PARK, 1 YEAR

- FOR REMAINDER OF 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL . . .

- Clayton Hudiburg to attend AP Reading Training in Cincinnati, OH (Funding: Title II)
- Dennis Matson to attend CTE Professional Development in Nashville, TN (Funding: CTE)
- Mark Mebes to attend CMP 3 Position Rifle Camp in Lebanon, OR (Funding: ASB)
- Mark Pickel to attend National Principals Conference in Philadelphia, PA (Funding: Principals Professional Dev.)

Quote of the Week

“Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers.”

Steven Spielberg

Highly Capable program recommendations approved

School board members reinforced their commitment to gifted learners by approving recommendations from the district’s Highly Capable Program Recommendation Committee. Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea chaired the broad-based committee. The recommendations focus on participant identification, professional development, communication and coordination, experience enhancement and offerings.

The newly approved plans will now shift to the Teaching and Learning Department to put the ideas into operation. The committee’s charge was grounded on ensuring the program best supports the needs of students. During the year long study, the committee examined the history of the district’s Highly Capable program and reviewed state and federal laws pertaining to this program. The group also studied other gifted programs throughout the state and assessed recent findings from outside consultants that examined the district’s program.

Partners of the Year
May is Partners in Learning Month

Walla Walla Public Schools named Catholic Charities of Walla Walla, Friends of Children of Walla Walla and Whitman College Student Engagement Center its Partners of the Year. The district established Partners in Learning Month in May 2010. This month the district sent nearly 150 proclamations and letters of recognition to our Partners in Learning.

“We strive to Develop Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates and each of these partners offers unique experiences and opportunities for our students and staff,” said Superintendent Wade Smith.



PHOTO L to R: Superintendent Wade Smith, Noah Leavitt, Tim Meliah, Jim Byrnes, Katrina Kerrigan and Dr. David Hampson.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank you for supporting our children!

