

Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | May 16, 2017

Strategic Plan

Board discusses performance indicators to measure success



Wade Smith

School board members approved a new five-year Strategic Plan this spring which resulted in new Vision, Mission and Values statements for the school district as well as measurable goals and detailed initiatives to support today's learning needs.

The new Strategic Plan will serve as a framework for focusing efforts, allocating resources, and prioritizing initiatives.

Goal Focus Areas

Goal 1 - High Quality Instruction

Goal 2 - Aligned and Coherent Systems

Goal 3 - Social and Emotional Needs

Goal 4 - Safe and Engaging Environment

Last night, Superintendent Wade Smith and School Board members discussed potential performance indicators to measure success. These may include graduation rates, attendance, drop-out statistics, academic achievement, survey results and more.

School board members and Superintendent Smith will continue this discussion during the school board's retreat in June. Smith said these indicators are an accountability tool to measure success. Recently the school board allocated additional resources to support the Goal Focus areas.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the May 2, 2017 regular board meeting and special meeting, personnel report, out of state travel, May 16 Accounts Payable, April Financial Report, 2017-18 Student insurance, and surplus equipment and materials.

Policy 2nd Readings/Approval . . .

School board members conducted readings and approved 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

Budget and Enrollment update . . .

Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan reported FTE enrollment for May is 5717, down 10 from the April count. He reported the district average for the year will be close to the target of 5760. The district continues budget planning for 2017-2018 despite unclear state revenue forecasts. Cohan expects the district fund balance reserve to remain at 8% when the fiscal year ends August 31.

Walla Walla Valley Education Association takes action to address funding issue

Walla Walla Valley Education Association President Keith Swanson updated the school board on activities planned in Walla Walla and around the state to raise awareness of issues related to adequate funding for public education.

Swanson said in the coming weeks, educators will ramp up phone calls, letters to the editor, rallies and more to advocate for a state budget to meet today's learning needs.

GEAR UP breaks down barriers

Walla Walla High School seniors Miguel Baza is on his way to Whitman College next year and Serena Thompson will be a Wildcat at Central Washington University where she'll study to become a teacher. Both students reported support from GEAR UP helped make their dreams come true.

Baza and Thompson are first generation college students and said the extra support from GEAR UP was invaluable.

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Administrative:

MICHAEL KAY | FACILITIES & OPERATIONS (DIRECTOR)
 JULIE PERRON | EDISON ELEMENTARY (PRINCIPAL)
 PETE PETERSON | ASSESS. & STUDENT SVCS (DIRECTOR)
 VICTOR VERGARA | BIL. ED & LAT. OUTREACH (DIRECTOR)

Certificated:

BARBARA CASEY | BEHAVIOR COORD. (SPECIAL ED)
 DAVID CLEARMAN | 5TH GRADE (BERNEY)

Classified:

BREELIN RENWICK | SPECIAL ED (ASST. SECRETARY)
 CHERYL SHAY | WA-HI (HEALTH CLINICIAN RN)

Quote of the Week

“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.”

G.K. Chesterton

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT . . .

Administrative:

KERRI COFFMAN | DIR. OF ASSESS./SPECIAL PRG, 23 YEARS

Classified:

MATTHEW BUCKINGHAM | PIONEER MS, 1.5 YEARS
 JACQUELINE HELLIE | WA-HI, 1 YEAR
 STACY JUST | GARRISON MS, 4 YEARS
 TRACY LONGMIRE | PROSPECT POINT, 9 YEARS
 CHANTELL LOPEZ | PIONEER MS, 3 YEARS

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL . . .

- Shelly Crump, Conor Fish, Mark Pickel, Amy Serra and Marie Spalding to attend AVID Summer Institute in Denver, CO (Funding: Title I, AVID)
- Eric Matson to attend Skills USA Nationals in Louisville, KY (Funding: Skills Center)
- Bernard Ma to attend FBLA National Competitors in Anaheim, CA (Funding: Vocational)

Facilities & Operations

New Director brings vast experience to district

Last night, Mike Kay was named Director of Facilities and Operations. He replaces current director Dan Johnson who is retiring in August. Kay brings vast experience in public education leadership to the district.

In addition to having classroom experience, he has been an administrator at the secondary and central office levels. Kay has been employed by the Hermiston School District since 2004 and is currently the Executive Director of Operations. In his current role at Hermiston, he oversees facilities, transportation, career and technical education, food service, print shop, athletics and activities, and student home builders. Under his leadership, Hermiston was the first school district in Oregon to implement the full suite of the School Dude facility management system. Walla Walla Public Schools also uses School Dude.

“Superintendent Smith worked with Mike Kay for nine years in Hermiston and reports he has seen first-hand his amazing skills in action and ability to foster a positive culture within the department,” said Human Resource Director Liz Campeau. “Kay also assisted Superintendent Smith with the \$70 million bond project as well as a \$5 million athletic stadium build.”

Kay also has past administrative experience in the Hermiston School District as the Director of Athletics and Activities, Support Services and as an assistant principal. He was named the Hermiston School District Administrator of the Year in 2009 and received the National Association of Agricultural Oregon Educators Outstanding Administrator Award in 2010. Kay holds an Administrative/Superintendent’s license. He earned his Master’s Degree in Education Policy, Foundations and Administration from Portland State University and has a Bachelor’s of Science Degree from Oregon State University.

Blue Whale Suicide Game and 13 Reasons Why

Walla Walla Public Schools is aware of international concerns related to the “Blue Whale” Suicide Game and the popular Netflix Series “13 Reasons Why.” Although the district has not had many calls or reports on “Blue Whale” or “13 Reasons Why”, it understands the important role schools play in preventing youth suicide.

The district has launched many suicide prevention initiatives, held conversations, developed supports, and organized trainings to help prevent these tragedies.

Recently, the National Association of School Psychologists has responded to the Netflix Series “13 Reasons Why.” The National Association of School Psychologists’ document provides information related to the series and some of the concerns associated with the fictional basis surrounding the main character. This document is posted on the district’s Suicide Prevention webpage: <http://www.wwps.org/programs/suicide-prevention>

“Blue Whale” is reportedly a dangerous online social media campaign encouraging people to hurt themselves over a 50 day period which can lead to suicide. This is concerning to Walla Walla Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to utilize the resources on the district’s Suicide Prevention webpage and report all concerns and incidents to school district officials.