

# Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



## School Board Meeting Recap | February 19, 2019

### Transportation efficiencies eyed

*Moderate school start time adjustments would save thousands and provide improved access*

The district stands to save more than \$400,000 a year in transportation costs by slightly adjusting school start times, according to a report last night by Transportation Director John Griffith and Superintendent Wade Smith.

"We currently run \$350,000 in the red using general education funding to offset this deficit," said Smith. "Overall operational savings would allow the district to reduce travel costs assessed to field trips, club and athletic programs and permit the district to provide an activity bus for students participating in after-school activities."

The key to netting these savings is aligning school start times, reported Smith. One conceptual option discussed was possibly aligning elementary start times and shifting them ahead by as little as 10 minutes, moving Wa-Hi start times back marginally by 20 minutes, and aligning middle school start times to match the high school student day.

"This concept appears to better align with



Wade Smith

"Shifting elementary start times ahead slightly, moving Wa-Hi start times back marginally, and aligning middle school start times to match the high school student day, can save \$400,000 a year through fleet and fuel consumption costs."

**Wade Smith, Superintendent**

most elementary parent work schedules, allows us to separate middle school and elementary bus riders to decrease bullying issues, offers greatly improved ridership opportunities for students, and would have minimal impact to after-school activities at Wa-Hi, noted Smith."

The Board requested Superintendent Smith meet with staff and engage parents and stakeholders over the coming month to seek feedback on the proposal for possible 2019-20 implementation.

### School board to address elementary realignment and boundaries

Last night, the school board discussed establishing a timeline to address elementary realignment, early learning needs and boundary adjustments. Board members plan to lead a process to analyze data and engage staff and stakeholders to formulate a recommendation for implementation in the 2020-21 school year. A reduction of 250 elementary students over the last nine years due to shifting community demographics and a need for more early learning programs is at the core of this issue. The district is anticipating 25 empty classrooms across its six elementary campuses in the next few years. Enrollment is expected to remain flat in the coming years. Board members will continue this discussion at their March 5 meeting.

### Board Meeting Highlights

#### APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Feb 5, 2019 regular study meeting and Feb. 12, 2019 executive session minutes, personnel report, Feb. 19 accounts payable, Jan. Financial report and annual energy management report.

#### Policy Approval . . .

1400 - Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum

2005 - School Improvement Plans

2413 - Equivalency Credit for Career and Technical Education Courses

3122 - Excused and Unexcused Absences

3144 - Release of Information Concerning Student Sexual and Kidnapping Offenders

3413 - Student Immunization and Life Threatening Health Conditions

3416 - Medication at School

3420 - Anaphylaxis Prevention and Response (NEW)

6210 - Purchasing: Authorization & Control

6215 - Voucher Certification and Approval

6220 - Bid Requirements

#### Enrollment/Fund Balance update . . .

Superintendent Smith reported the district's enrollment count for Feb. 2019 increased by 46 FTE. The overall count remains slightly above the 5600 FTE budget target. The district's ending fund balance maintains the required 6% minimum and maintains \$1.1M in the unrestricted category to ensure temporary pay raises in 2018-19 become permanent next year.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Coaching:

GREG LUPFER | HEAD FOOTBALL COACH | WA-HI

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...

Certificated:

KASEY HOOTER | BLUE RIDGE, 7 YRS

KYLE ROYCE | PIONEER MS, 2 YRS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Certificated:

BRYAN WINN | TRANSPORTATION, 6 MONTHS

• FOR REMAINDER 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

“Failure is success if we learn from it.”

Malcolm Forbes

February 2019 Bond Update

Wa-Hi

- Jackson Construction of Walla Walla named General Contractor
- Perfection Glass of Walla Walla to install window configuration mock-ups in Principal Higgins' office for stakeholder feedback
- Architects West begins conceptual design of new science building. Construction begins next fall.

Pioneer MS

- Site survey work has begun
- Pioneer staff to tour regional schools in March

Lincoln HS

- Site survey work has begun

Berney

- Project team and facilities staff analyzed four options for HVAC replacement. Bidding will take place this spring with construction beginning in June

Blue Ridge

- Roof consultant and facilities staff performed targeted excavation of soil on roof to determine condition of roofing membrane and detailing.

WSU GEAR UP Career Day

WSU GEAR UP is planning a Career Day at Walla Walla Community College March 25 for district 8th graders. Becky Schwartz reported last night students will be placed in small groups and participate in three presentations of their choice from 30 different career pathways.

High School update

Wa-Hi student Zoe Gannon is serving as the student representative to the school board. Last night she reported the annual Conspiracy of Hope concert is scheduled for Thursday and Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Wa-Hi Auditorium. Winter Wish recipients will receive their wishes during Flex Period this year and the campus welcomes 23 new baby lambs.

National Board Certification

Walla Walla teachers earn prestigious national merit

Congratulations to Walla Walla Educators Kate Keyes, Denise Hurst and Elissa Tinder (not in photo) for earning National Board Certification. Berney Principal Michelle Carpenter (L) and Behavior Coordinator Barb Casey (R) served as mentors during the process. National board certification allows teachers to hone their practice, showcase talents in the classroom and demonstrate dedication to their students and profession.

