

Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | April 16, 2019

Elementary Enrollment and Early Learning

Financial review and survey creation focus of report

Last night, school board members reviewed district finances as part of their 8-month Elementary Consolidation Review and Early Learning Expansion study.

They also discussed the development of a stakeholder survey to gain input. The survey will feature open ended questions about perceptions of early learning program needs as well as approaches to address declining elementary enrollment during these financially constrained times.

Board members expect to have a recommendation as a result of this comprehensive study by November.



Ruth Ladderud

"Tonight's deep dive was reviewing non-payroll aspects of our budget. We're looking to find savings so we can attain financial solvency, not just for this year, but long-term. All of this information is on the district's website as we ensure transparency throughout this process."

Ruth Ladderud
School Board President

Board Meeting Highlights

■ CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL . . .

Minutes from the March 19, 2019 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, issuance of contracts and notifications of reasonable assurance, April 2 accounts payable and March payroll, April 16 accounts payable, February financial report, March financial report, Berney HVAC and Roofing contract and donation for Sycamore Park project.

■ Enrollment Report . . .

Superintendent Smith reported the district's enrollment count for April 2019 is 5663. The budget target is 5600 FTE.

■ Teacher Appreciation Week . . .

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10. Thanks to all our teachers for playing a pivotal role in our children's lives.

■ Garrison MS Principal Finalists . . .

Wa-Hi Assistant Principal Mindy Meyer and Blue Ridge Principal Kim Doepker have been named finalists for the Garrison Middle School Principal position. Meet the candidates Thursday from 4 to 5:00 p.m. at the Garrison Library.

■ Wa-Hi Student Update . . .

Student Zoe Gannon reported 200 students attended the Sadie Hawkins Dance and ASB elections are completed.

2019-2020 Financial Summary

At the Board's request, Superintendent Wade Smith prepared a financial review that summarized preliminary financial projections for the 2019-2020 school year budget. Smith reported that despite efforts to trim expenses the last few years through staff attrition reductions, limiting travel, funding professional development through federal grants, and reducing central office staff, the district still needs to make further reductions for next year due to the impact of the McCleary "levy swap" and increased insurance costs stemming from the proposed SEBB program.

His summary included a description of savings already accomplished, including preschool partnership with ESD, transportation efficiencies, and setting aside \$1 million from last year's fund balance to help offset the forecasted budget shortfall for 19-20.

Smith said in his report that if additional revenue for schools is not realized in Olympia, another \$1.3M in further reductions are necessary to balance the 2019-2020 budget based on preliminary forecasts and negotiation estimates. The new statewide insurance program, set to take effect in January, results in an additional \$900,000 cost for the district to cover insurance costs for the nearly 120 employees paid for by levy and not covered under the state's prototypical school formula.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

IVAN SOTO | CUSTODIAN, WA-HI

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...

Administrative:

ROBERT ELIZONDO | PRINCIPAL, GARRISON, 6 YRS

Certificated:

LINDSEY BUTCHER | WA-HI, 12 YRS

SHEILAH PAYNE | SHARPSTEIN, 3 YRS

Classified:

CYNTHIA DIAZ | PRESCHOOL, 16 YRS

EMMA MASSIE | PROSPECT PT, 2 YRS

ERIN ROACH | SEATECH, 19 YRS

Quote of the Week

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.”

Henry Ford

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Certificated:

BRANDI MCINTIRE | LINCOLN HS, 15 YRS

- TO COMPLETE WWPS SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INTERNSHIP FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

BETSY RUSSELL CARROLL | PRESCHOOL, 5 YRS

ELISSA TINDER | GARRISON MS, 6 YRS

- TO SERVE AS A SPECIAL EDUCATION BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Bond Project Update - April 2019

Walla Walla High School

- Schematic design for the Science Building submitted. Reviewing comments from teachers.
- Met with front office, food service, and music staff for additional feedback. Mechanical engineer met with Facilities team to discuss HVAC system.
- GC/CM contract with Jackson Contractor Group.
- Completed geotechnical investigations.
- Perfection Glass installed the window options mock-up at Wa-Hi. Survey open until May 3.

Pioneer Middle School

- Pioneer staff toured Armand Larive MS in Hermiston and Chinook MS in Kennewick, followed by two days of design workshops. All Pioneer staff members had the opportunity to share input.
- Completed geotechnical investigations.

Lincoln High School

- Completed geotechnical investigations.

Berney Elementary

- S&K Mountain Construction received the bid for the Berney HVAC Retrofit and Reroof
- The District contracted with TestComm to provide commissioning services for the Berney project.

Blue Ridge Elementary

- Membrane roof bid package to be released April 30 for construction this summer.

General Projects

- Pacific Power performed an energy incentive custom assessment for Wa-Hi, Pioneer, and Lincoln. The District will be pursuing standard incentives for the work at Berney and Blue Ridge.

Volunteers of the Year

Art Regier recipients enhance education opportunities



Last night, Superintendent Wade Smith announced the Art Regier Volunteers of the Year (L-R in photo) Sarah Allen, Tina Dumser, Erica Munsey, Maddy Gold, Cheri Ruzicka, Cami Eastep. Also in the photo, far left Dr. David Hampson and right Ruth Ladderud and Superintendent Smith.