

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

October 15, 2019

Early Learning School Board approves repurposing of Blue Ridge

Following eight months of study, community engagement, and deliberation, the school board has reached a unanimous recommendation to proceed with repurposing Blue Ridge Elementary School as a building-wide Early Learning Center, effective the 2020-21 school year.

This will necessitate the relocation of approximately 200 students and faculty from Blue Ridge to other school sites.

The school board has identified specific supports to ensure the administrative team has the resources needed to put deliberate measures in place to support all stakeholders in this change. The school board has also requested to delay the boundary review



Ruth Ladderud
Board President

"The Board is fully confident Superintendent Smith and his staff will manage this transition in a thoughtful way that supports students, families, and staff."

Ruth Ladderud, President

process until the 2020-21 school year to ensure staff attention and resources are fully committed to supporting Blue Ridge students, families, and staff this year and next. The transition plan is detailed below.

Blue Ridge Early Learning Center Transition Plan

- Establish transition plans that allow individual Blue Ridge families/students the ability to remain together in their new school
- Ensure transportation is made available to Blue Ridge attendance area families to and from their new school
- Maintain dual language program access for current Blue Ridge program students
- Establish a Spanish-speaking point-of-contact person who can serve to assist and support all of our Blue Ridge families through this transition and into the following school year
- Develop a staffing plan that maintains employment for current Blue Ridge staff
- Ensure sufficient resources are available to support Blue Ridge students and families at the transitioned schools
- Develop transition plans that prioritize appropriate class sizes
- Provide the Board with the following reports/data regarding this matter:
 - o On or before January 21, 2020: Overview of the transition plan for 2020-21
 - o September '20: Update on the transition
 - o November '20: Former Blue Ridge family survey and attendance data review
 - o May '21: i-Ready performance data for former Blue Ridge students

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »»

Minutes from the Oct. 1 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, Oct. 15 accounts payable, Resolution 12-2019 - Educational Programs and Operations Levy renewal, 2019-20 Perkins grant application, Lincoln HS educational specifications, facility lease and excused absence for Director Mr. Wells.

ACT SCORES ON THE RISE »»

The district's ACT scores improved to 19.6, up from 19 last year. The Strategic Plan target is 22 by 2022.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE »»

Enrollment for October is 5693 FTE. Last year at this time it was 5711. The district is on track to meet its enrollment budget target of 5608.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK »»

American Education Week is Nov. 18-22. Superintendent Smith read a proclamation honoring educational staff.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE »»

High School representative Jaden Bergevin reported a significant increase in attendance at the Homecoming Dance. Trunk or Treat is Halloween night from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

GOLDEN ONION AWARD »»

Nominations are now open for the Golden Onion Award. The grant has increased to \$1000 per teacher. This year five teachers are eligible to receive the grant. Please get your completed nominations back to Mark Higgins by Nov. 6.

RESIGNATIONS ...

Certificated:

CASSANDRA BUSKA | WA-HI, 1 YR

Classified:

TARA JASPER | BLUE RIDGE, 13 YRS

Quote of the Week

“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

Anthony J. D'Angelo

Replacement Levy

Proposal placed on Feb. 11, 2020 ballot

Last night, school board members approved a resolution to seek renewal of its Replacement Education Levy on the February 11 ballot.

Levies are different than bonds. Levies pay for educational programs and opportunities for students the state does not fund. The Replacement Education Levy funds over 100 staff not paid for by the state's basic education funding model. Levies support school programs like music, art, honors courses, athletics, and a variety of experiences Walla Walla parents and stakeholders have approved at the ballot box for over 50 years. This is not a new tax, but a replacement levy that replaces the expiring 2016 levy.

Bonds are used for the construction of new schools, major building remodels or major facility upgrades. Walla Walla Public Schools voters approved a replacement bond in November 2018 to address such facility improvements.

Replacement Levy

The following educational programs and services will continue to be funded by this Replacement Education Levy.

LEVY EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Total	%
Approximately 40 Teachers (e.g. Music, Art, Drama, PE, AP/Honors)	\$3,534,951	32%
School Health Clinicians	\$453,363	4%
School Safety	\$288,930	3%
Highly Capable Program	\$205,535	2%
Extra-Curricular/Athletics/Clubs	\$1,488,352	14%
School Intervention Specialists	\$800,855	7%
Special Education/Psychology Services	\$560,051	5%
Facility Maintenance/Operations	\$1,108,816	10%
Classroom Technology	\$400,704	4%
Classroom and Kindergarten Assistants	\$366,275	3%
Professional Development for Staff	\$252,128	2%
Curriculum, Supplies, Field Trips	\$490,547	4%
Community and Parent Outreach	\$127,701	1%
Additional Days Beyond State Minimum	\$932,194	8%
» Total Levy	\$11,010,402	

NOTE: Total FTE Staff Funded by Levy: 103 Employees

REPLACEMENT LEVY SUMMARY

Levy = Learning Bond = Building

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Summary of 2020 Levy Proposal

- 2021 - \$11.01M (projected rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)
- 2022 - \$11.29M (projected rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)
- 2023 - \$11.57M (projected rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)
- 2024 - \$11.86M (projected rate \$2.50 per \$1,000)

These rates are based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

State Funding Limitations

The State of Washington funds a basic prototypical school model for public schools. This funding model does not provide the level of programming offered in Walla Walla Public Schools. The Replacement Education Levy makes up the difference.

Here are some powerful facts:

STATE BASIC EDUCATION FUNDS: (WWPS)	WWPS LEVY FUNDS ENSURE: (Actual)
<1 Less Than 1 Staffed Nurse for 5,800 Students	13 School Health Clinicians
1/3 1/3 of a Social Worker, District-Wide	16 Intervention Specialists/Social Workers
9 Teacher's Assistants, District-Wide	24 Classroom & Kindergarten Assistants
21 Campus Custodians for 1M sq ft	30 Campus Custodians
1 School Safety Staff for 12 Campuses	7 School Safety Staff
3 Technology Employees	9 Technology Employees
10 Facilities/Maintenance Employees	20 Facilities/Maintenance Employees

Levy Revenue is Fixed:

Schools receive no additional dollars beyond the amount approved by voters. Increases in property values will not increase levy revenue.

Key Levy Dates

- » Election date: Feb 11, 2020
- » Ballots mailed: Jan 22, 2020
- » 50% + 1 voter approval required