

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap >>

December 17, 2019

Special Education

School board briefed on WWPS Special Education program

The Special Education Program Annual Report prepared by Special Education Director Libby Thompson, and delivered last night by Coordinator Ellisa Tender, notes students have exceeded their 2.5% Annual Growth target for English Language Arts and Math in grades 3-8. Alignment with the strategic plan, by supporting a districtwide culture where all instructional staff analyze student data, reflects on their practice, collaboration with their peers, and best-practice teaching strategies to ensure high levels of learning for all students are keys to the success. Also adding to the strong outcomes are efforts to ensure articulated programs and systems support a comprehensive, consistent and responsive learning environment for all students.

Including more special education students in general education classes continues to be a focus area for the program. Although the district has made improvements in this area, it still lags behind state averages.

Currently 873 students, birth to 21-years-old, are served through Special Education



Libby Thompson
Special Ed Director

"Inclusion was our goal last year and we are continuing efforts moving forward. Over 80 years of research has shown that placement in the general education setting positively impacts outcomes."

Libby Thompson
Director of Special Education

services. Special education students make up approximately 13 percent of the district's overall student enrollment population.

Delivery models and programs offered by WWPS include resource pull out, push-in and co-teaching, developmentally delayed, life skills, RISE, behavior and STEP.

For 2020 and beyond, the focus will be adding 3rd grade ELA and 3-5 math inclusion. Middle and high school will focus on co-taught classes and more inclusion in general education classes.

State of Washington & WWPS Special Education comparison

Washington State	WWPS	Compare
Less than 4% of students are identified with an intellectual disability	Less than 3% of students are identified with an intellectual disability	😊
More than 90% present with average to above average intelligence	More than 90% present with average to above average intelligence	😊
59% of students with disabilities are placed in general education classrooms for 80-100% of the day	28% of students with disabilities are placed in general education classrooms for 80-100% of the day	😞
59.3% of Students with disabilities are considered "9 th grade on track"	62.3% of Students with disabilities are considered "9 th grade on track"	😊
62.1% Graduation rate with a 16.2% dropout rate for students with disabilities	88.1% Graduation rate with a 1.7% dropout rate for students with disabilities	😊

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED >>

Minutes from the Nov. 19, 2019 regular business meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, Dec. 3 accounts payable and November payroll, Dec. 17 accounts payable, November financial report, sale of select surplus vehicles and equipment, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year calendars and excused absence of Director Dr. Hampson.

ENROLLMENT REPORT >>

Enrollment for December is 5695 FTE. The district remains on track to meet its enrollment budget target of 5608.

BOARD OFFICERS >>

School Board Director Sam Wells was elected President and Director Derek Sarley was named Vice President. These unanimously elected board officer positions expire in December 2020.

WINTER BREAK >>

- NO SCHOOL: Dec. 23 – Jan. 3
- Classes resume Monday, Jan. 6
- Have a safe and happy holiday break

APPROVED CALENDARS >>

The approved 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school year calendars are posted on the district's website - www.wwps.org.

Printed calendars will be available in all schools after winter break.

EMPLOYMENT ...

Administrative:

CESAR HERNANDEZ | ASST PRINCIPAL, GREEN PARK

Certificated:

DANICA BENTLEY | SPECIAL EDUCATION, GREEN PARK

Classified:

RUBEN HERNANDEZ | SECURITY, LINCOLN HS

LETICIA SANCHEZ-SEGOVIA | PARA-ED, PRESCHOOL

RESIGNATIONS ...

Certificated:

SARA PINKERTON | EDISON, 6 YEARS

Classified:

LILIIA ZINNEROVA | DISTRICT OFFICE, 1 YEAR

Quote of the Week

“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”
Andy McIntyre

Oath of Office

Board members officially sworn into office

Walla Walla County Superior Court Judge John Lohrmann administered the Oath of Office to board members (L-R) Ruth Ladderud, Terri Trick, Derek Sarley and Eric Rindal who were elected into office during the November 5 General Election. January is School Board Recognition Month. Thank you school board members for your service.



Curriculum Adoption

Last night Teaching and Learning Executive Director Christy Krutulius reported the district continues to invest in curriculum adoptions in support of its strategic plan. This year this district is in the process of adopting new curriculum materials for K-5 Mathematics and 6-12 Social Studies.

The process for both curriculum adoptions, which occur over a 12 month span, includes materials review, standards alignment to state requirements, piloting of materials, parent input and final review by the Instruction Materials Committee before going to the school board for final consideration. The K-5 Math adoption recommendation is scheduled for February and 6-12 Social Studies will be presented to the school board for consideration in May.

District parents and community members are invited to learn more about the K-5 Math materials before they are proposed for district adoption. The meeting is Tuesday, January 7 from 6-7 p.m. in the Anne Golden Boardroom at the district office.

Bond Update

Superintendent Smith reported local contractor Nelson Construction, Inc. is planning to pour the concrete slab for the new Walla Walla High School science building Monday, Dec. 23. Concrete tilt-up walls are expected to go up in January.

Superintendent Evaluation Process

School board members went into Executive Session last night at the conclusion of the regular school board meeting to begin the annual superintendent evaluation process. No action was taken.

High School Representative

Jaden Bergevin, the Walla Walla High School student representative to the school board, reported 350 students attended the recent Winter Ball dance. She says attendance at school dances is up this year from previous years. Students are continuing to plan for the Winter Wish program. They are also working with Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Coalition Target Zero Manager Nancy McClenny-Walters on the Every 15 Minutes anti-drinking and driving program scheduled for Feb. 28. This year prom will be held on April 18.