

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

January 19, 2021

Welcome Back

All smiles as WWCCF welcomes students back on campus

Walla Walla Center for Children & Families staff welcomed students in the district's preschool and transitional kindergarten programs back for in-person learning Tuesday utilizing the AM/PM Hybrid Model. The newly repurposed early learning center was buzzing as parents dropped off the district's youngest learners for their first day of in-person learning. While a few typical first-day-tears were shed, mostly from parents, most were all smiles as excitement brewed.

Additionally, students in self-contained Special Education programs, SEATech students, students in specific Career and Technical Education programs, and a select number of struggling middle and high school students also returned Jan. 19. As articulated in the revised Roadmap, and consistent with state health authorities, the district will return middle and high school students to in-person learning once case counts reach state-recommended levels.

Kindergarten through 5th grade students are set to transition to the in-person AM/PM Hybrid model for in-person learning Monday, Jan. 25.



Samantha Bowen
Director

"We were so excited to welcome all these kids back into the building today. The students were excited, the teachers were excited, and we jumped right in and are having a great time."

Samantha Bowen
WWCCF Director



School Board Recognition Month



January is a time to express sincere gratitude to these five dedicated volunteer public officials.

Mr. Derek Sarley, President

Mrs. Ruth Ladderud, VP

Mr. Eric Rindal, Director

Mrs. Terri Trick, Director

Mr. Sam Wells, Director

Thank you for your service to our staff, students and families!

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the Dec. 15 executive session and regular business meeting and Jan. 5 special meeting, personnel report, Jan 5 & Jan. 19 accounts payable and Dec. payroll, Dec. financial report and reopening of schools memorandum of understanding with Walla Walla Valley Education Association.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE »

Last night, Wa-Hi student representative Jaden Bergevin reported ASB students are working on their leadership skills and helping promote Sources of Strength.

ENROLLMENT/BUDGET »

District enrollment dipped again this month following a statewide trend due to the COVID pandemic. The FTE count for January is 5474, down 18 FTE since December. The district has been proactive about trimming expenditures to meet the approximate \$3M in lost revenue from enrollment declines. Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor says the district is projected to meet the board mandated Fund Balance reserve target of 8 to 10 percent despite this year's challenges.

BOND UPDATE »

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported bond projects are on schedule and on budget across the district. At Pioneer Middle School, contractors are working on the school's new entrance, gym, commons addition and 1950's wing. At Walla Walla High School, contractors are renovating the original science building and commons and constructing additions on the library, gym and music buildings.

EMPLOYMENT ...**Classified:**

MARGRET AQUINO | BIL ASST SEC (TEMP), WW ONLINE
 KARISS CARRILLO | BIL SEC TO ATHLETIC DIR, WA-HI
 JENNIFER LOPEZ | BIL ASST SEC/REC (TEMP),
 GARRISON MS
 IAN MCCLENNY | CUSTODIAN (TEMP), ELEMENTARY
 JULISSA VIRREY SOTO | BIL ASST SEC, GREEN PARK

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS**Certificated:**

KEITH GRADWOHL | WA-HI, 39 YRS
 - (WW ONLINE FOR 2020-2021)
 SHANNON HOHOSH | WWCCF, 2 YRS
 - (WW ONLINE FOR 2020-2021)

Classified:

JANICE BRAY | SHARPSTEIN, 6 YRS
 KRISTIN DEWEY | EDISON, 27 YRS
 ALONDRA DIAZ | WWCCF, 1.5YRS
 MICHAEL NAJERA | WA-HI, 9 YRS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...**Classified:**

JENNIFER MANN | WWCCF, 1.5 YRS
 - FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR
 MENELL MINA-NELSON | BERNEY, 13 YRS
 - FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR
 KEVIN RENICHE | TRANSPORTATION, 3 YRS
 - FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR
 ANNALIESE SHAFER | GREEN PARK, 3 YRS
 - FOR REMAINDER OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

"Education is the movement from darkness to light."

Allan Bloom

Third Party COVID Safety Review says district safe to allow in-person learning

Walla Walla Public Schools contracted with NV5/DADE MOELLER© to perform a comprehensive third party COVID Preparedness Review in preparation for on-site learning. The audit included a review of facility and personnel practices against the latest CDC and WaDOH guidance on re-opening schools, to ensure campuses, HVAC modifications and COVID protocols are compliant with the latest standards. Additionally, it incorporated a review of physical areas, employee work arrangements and administrative controls to ensure necessary protocols are in place to minimize exposure to pathogens for staff and students.

The audit included a two-phased review process. During the Phase 1 audit, certified staff from NV5 performed a comprehensive review of all district protocols against the latest WaDOH, CDC and L&I guidelines. Cleaning protocols, masking and other PPE standards, COVID response protocols, staff training and other practices were all reviewed. Their findings indicated that all of the district's protocols met, and in many cases, exceeded safety guidelines.

During the Phase 2 audit, thorough on-site inspections of district facilities were performed. Stephen Bump, a Certified Industrial Hygienist and Health Professional from NV5, spent more than seven hours performing on-site inspections at each of the district's elementary and preschool sites Jan. 11. He had the following to say in his written report to the school district.

"Our review indicates the Walla Walla School District has implemented the health agency guidance and has adequate controls and protocols in place to allow in-person learning in a safe and healthy environment," as noted in Mr. Bump's executive summary of the review. "We were impressed by the ownership of the principals and their staff. There were a number of innovative and creative approaches to the implementation of the protocols."

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith says this comprehensive third party audit ensures the district has fully reviewed and implemented all safety protocols and procedures recommended from state health officials and industry experts.

"This serves as an additional layer of protection for all staff, students and parents and is part of our continued commitment to keep students and staff safe," said Dr. Smith. "Safety has been, and will continue to be, our top priority, and the results from our third party safety audit spoke to all of our staff members' hard work."

Walla Walla Public Schools will contract with NV5/DADE MOELLER© in the coming weeks, in preparation for transitioning middle and then high school students back for AM/PM, to perform the same inspections at all remaining campuses.