

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap >>

May 5, 2020

Budget Process

School board continues discussions for developing 2020-2021 budget

School board members conducted a study meeting May 5 to continue planning for the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget. Concerns over the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic were voiced throughout the meeting. Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith praised the school board for its forward planning and pragmatic approach to budgeting to put the district in strong financial standing, using reserves to help withstand some of the anticipated state funding dips as a result of COVID-19.

Superintendent Smith revealed three budget scenarios for the school board to consider as it provides guidance based on varying levels of financial risks. Conservative, moderate and aggressive budget scenarios were discussed. Planning parameters for the scenarios were based on enrollment projections, preventative maintenance levels, state funding cuts and



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

“Although we are in a strong financial position, we will need to take preventive measures to address the economic impact.”

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

deficit spending levels. Superintendent Smith says state funding dips are likely to occur next year, but are expected to be more drastic during the 2021-2022 school year. He said decisions made this year will have profound impacts on the next year or two as well. No decisions were made last night. School board members will have another budget planning meeting May 19 and one in July before it goes up for a vote August 18.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED >>

Minutes from the April 21, 2020 regular business meeting, personnel report, May 5 accounts payable and April payroll and Resolution 06-2020 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2020-2021.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE >>

School board members conducted a conference call last night with lobbyist Marie Sullivan to learn more about how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting state finances. School board members will conduct a special virtual meeting Thursday, May 7 at 1 p.m. to approve a resolution to urge legislators to not cut Local Effort Assistance or Levy Equalization for property poor communities like Walla Walla. This \$3.3 million annual state funding source is critical to district operations.

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING >>

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors is conducting board meetings online. The Zoom meetings are open to the public via telephone for audio-only listening.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL >>

The last day of school will be pushed back five days from Friday, June 12 to Friday, June 19. Graduation dates remain the same for high school students. In order to maintain graduation dates, seniors will be provided five additional days of learning experience the week following graduation. A focus on college, career, and post-high school planning will be the focus of instruction as seniors partner with counselors, advisors and other staff.

Equity & Access Telephone Hotline

Spanish speaking families needing information and support now have a dedicated telephone hotline!

(509) 526-6787



L-R: Yaneth Hernandez, Dr. Julie Perron and Marilyn Melgoza are excited to begin staffing a telephone hotline in Spanish from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays to support student learning during the COVID-19 campus closure period. They will provide families with information, school resources and appropriate school contacts as needed.

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...

Certificated:

KRYSTAL CERON-TAPIA | SHARPSTEIN, 1 YEAR

Classified:

CHERYL SHAY | HEALTH SERVICES, 3 YEARS

Quote of the Week

"Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism."

David M. Burns

Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank You Walla Walla teachers. You are the best!

May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week and a time to thank our teachers as they change the lives of thousands of Walla Walla children every day. The unprecedented and abrupt COVID-19 physical closure to our school campuses is challenging our teachers to do even more to continue education with virtual classrooms and paper learning packets for at-home lessons.

It's in these challenging times that we truly recognize and appreciate how Walla Walla educators play such a pivotal role in our children's lives—inspiring a lifelong love of learning and discovery and making a difference in their well-being and long-term success.



Social Studies Adoption Virtual Meeting

Walla Walla Public Schools is updating its grades 6-12 Social Studies curriculum as part of the district's ongoing adoption cycle. The adoption process started last spring and is expected to go before the school board for adoption on May 19.

The Instructional Materials Committee is meeting virtually via Zoom Thursday, May 7 from 3 to 4 p.m. to finalize the process by reviewing the feedback from local educators. This Zoom meeting is open to the public, for listen-only, to hear about the process and learn more about the materials being recommended for adoption. Guests will also be allowed to ask questions and review the materials online.

Contact Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis to get access information for the meeting: ckrutulis@wwps.org / 509.526.6733.

Student Registration Now Open

Registration for kindergarten and families new to Walla Walla Public Schools, and Open Enrollment for students who reside outside of our school district is now open. This year the process is online. The registration link is located on the district's home webpage.

If you are unable to register online, please contact the district office or your child's attendance area school for a paper registration form. Forms are available in Spanish and English. If you are registering a kindergarten student, and are interested in dual programming, please contact the Equity and Dual Programs department at 509-526-6784.

If you are a current K-4 parent whose child is open enrolled within the district, you will have received an open enrollment form in the Monday, May 4 learning packet. If you have a current fifth grader you want to open enroll for middle school, you should have received the open enrollment form in the Monday, April 20 learning packet.

If you did not receive a form in the Monday packet, please contact your child's current school.