

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

June 2, 2020

Graduation Rates Soar

Students better prepared for college and technical school success

Although many traditional district celebrations have been canceled this spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, School Board members and Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith did virtual "high fives" during last night's regular study meeting celebrating historic achievement marks. This report is the district's annual review of graduation rates as part of the Strategic Plan accountability measures.

Superintendent Smith reported more Walla Walla Public Schools students are graduating on time than ever before in modern history according to data released earlier this school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Class of 2019. Last year's on-time graduation rate jumped to 90.3%, which is 9.4% above the state average.

When the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan was established, school board members set a target of reaching an 85% on-time graduation by 2022. The district has surpassed this mark two years early, by witnessing its graduation rate jump 14% in just three years.

The district has also closed the gap between student ethnic populations as the Hispanic/Latino graduate rate has grown 16% in recent years, to 89.3%.

"There is virtually no graduation gap now," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "Our Hispanic/Latino rate is 13.6% above the state Latino graduation rate. This is an incredible accomplishment and testament to our collective efforts around equity, access, and program supports offered students."

In addition to graduation rates, the district



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"The district's strategic plan, our dedicated staff and deliberate efforts in keeping students connected and engaged to their school led to this historic data."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

also monitors post-high school success as measured by the number of students who attend college after high school and how prepared they were to tackle freshman level math and English courses.

The district has kept up its post secondary enrollment numbers, mirroring the state with about 60% of graduates attending four-year, two-year or career and technical schools. When they arrive, however, the data reveals that more and more students are prepared for the rigorous coursework. For the first time since 2013, Walla Walla graduates who attended two-year colleges directly out of high school outperformed the state in math and English readiness.

Superintendent Smith says by not having to take remedial classes it saves students and families significant money and helps them get started on earning credits towards a degree.

He said he is proud of our staff for supporting the strategic plan and working collectively to prepare students for college, careers and life after high school.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the May 19, 2020 regular business meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, June 2 accounts payable and May payroll, Pioneer Middle School and Walla Walla High School construction documents.

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.

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN »

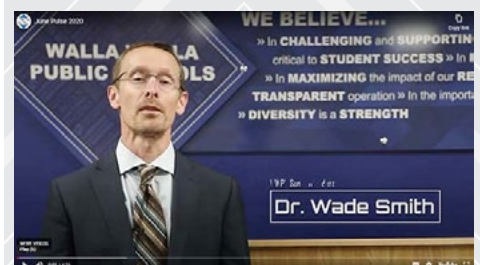
Online registration for kindergarten and families new to Walla Walla Public Schools, and Open Enrollment for students who reside outside of our school district is now open. The registration link is located on the district's home webpage.

Early learning programs registration

WWPS is now accepting applications for the early learning programs at the new Walla Walla Center for Children & Families. For more information call 509-526-1774 or visit www.wwps.org/ccf

PULSE VIDEO »

Visit the district's YouTube page to watch the June 2020 Pulse video.



EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated:

MADELEINE BLACKBURN | SPECIAL ED, LINCOLN HS
 KRYSTAL CERON-TAPIA | SPECIAL ED, WA-HI
 JESSICA VANDER POL | FAM & CONSUMER SC, WA-HI

Classified:

KATHY GIFFORD | ADMINISTRATIVE ASST, BUS OFFICE

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...

Certificated:

KRISTEN GARCIA | BLUE RIDGE, 13 YEARS

Classified:

DANIEL BEATON | SHARPSTEIN, 1 YEAR
 CALVIN KNIGHT | EDISON, 5 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Certificated:

HOLLIS ERIKSON | PIONEER MS, 7 YEARS
 - FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

**Watch Graduations Ceremonies Live!
 Walla Walla High School**

Virtual Video Ceremony

- Friday, June 5, 7 p.m.
- Live - www.FACEBOOK.COM/WWSCHOOLS & Spectrum cable channel 191. Thanks to the City of Walla Walla for allowing use of their cable channel.

Drive-Through Diplomas and Photos

- Friday Afternoon, June 5
- Wa-Hi - Students have a socially distanced option of a drive-through diploma pickup and photo

Family Drive-In Showing

- Tues & Wed June 9-10, 8:45 p.m.
- M-F Drive-In Theater - Private showing of the commencement video for students and families.

Lincoln High School

- Thursday, June 4, dusk
- M-F Drive-In Theater - Private event • LIVE - www.FACEBOOK.COM/WWSCHOOLS

Opportunity Program

- Friday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.
- Virtual - <https://rebrand.ly/grad2020>

Fall Reopening Planning

District unveils plan to study reopening options

As the district begins studying a variety of scenarios for reopening schools this fall amid the COVID-19 pandemic, it's clear stakeholders want to weigh in on the options. Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported approximately 2300 people responded to a preliminary survey seeking feedback on reopening options and considerations.

Although a strong majority of the survey takers want schools to reopen in a traditional fashion this fall, many reported they still have fears sending their children to school and working in schools until there is a vaccine. Complete results are posted on the district's COVID-19 webpage under 2020-21 Reopening Plans tab.

This week planning teams are organizing to look at various fall options and scenarios that have been preliminary discussed by OSPI and other states. The teams will closely study specific details related to how these scenarios impact transportation, custodial duties, nutrition services, health services, technology and other key operational functions.

Superintendent Smith expects to receive more guidance from OSPI this month with final directives from the state and health officials coming later this summer. He plans to have reopening models finalized by July 21 to allow time for communication and preparations for the fall.

**Stakeholder Engagement & Planning
 Process Timeline (Remaining activities)**

June 8-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Teams meet virtually one or more times to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluate survey results ○ Provide input ○ Review, problem solve, and address possible reopening models utilizing developed protocols/evaluation criteria 	• Various
(June 8-12) June 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated release of OSPI's Guidance Documents • Superintendent provides preliminary 20-21 Education Transition Plan progress and information gathered with the School Board 	• Superintendent and Board of Directors
June 15-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Team leads meet virtually one or more times to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share evaluation findings with each other ○ Make any necessary revisions based on OSPI guidance ○ Consolidate criteria into a consolidated draft 20-21 Education Transition Plan 	• Program Team lead members and Superintendent
June 22-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Team leaders finalize 20-21 Education Transition Plan 	• Planning Team lead members and Superintendent
June 29-July 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District communicates 20-21 Education Transition Plan progress to all stakeholders • District prepares implementation planning for a variety of possible reopening options 	• District
July 6-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District awaits further information and guidance from the Governor's Office, WADOH, and other agencies regarding fall reopening possibilities • District continues implementation planning 	• District
July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopening model finalized, reviewed and approved (subject to outside guidance and timing) 	• Superintendent and Board of Directors
July 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication to all stakeholders of approved reopening model (subject to outside guidance and timing) 	• District