

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap >>

June 16, 2020

Safe Return to School

State paves way for school districts to reopen with face-to-face teaching

During last night's school board meeting Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith led a discussion on fall reopening plans following the recent release of new state guidelines. Superintendent Smith says all signs are leading to reopening in the fall with in-person instruction, but must be able to meet strict safety measures.

Superintendent Smith has been in direct contact with State Superintendent Chris Reykdal following his June 11 press conference where he unveiled the Reopening Washington Schools 2020 District Planning Guide informing all districts that he expects most schools will be providing in-person instruction in the fall.

This week the district launched its newly created 2020-21 Safe Return to Schools webpage to help families track its fall planning progress. Currently there are dozens of faculty and community partners analyzing parent feedback and developing preliminary plans around the state's new fall reopening guidance. Superintendent Smith says Walla Walla Public Schools is also developing backup plans if local conditions do not permit full school attendance come September.

These may incorporate schedules such as am/pm hifting if local outbreaks or regional health conditions warrant enhanced safety precautions. Districts must also develop plans that would allow them to pivot quickly to a distance-learning model if it becomes necessary for short-duration off-campus learning to support enhanced cleaning measures following possible exposure at a



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"All signs are leading to reopening in the fall with in-person instruction, but must be able to meet strict safety measures."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

site, or other localized outbreak.

Superintendent Smith says local plans will include accommodations for students and staff who may need to continue distance learning in the fall due to individual health or safety concerns. He anticipates finalizing and communicating district fall reopening plans by mid-July. These plans will be reviewed and approved by the school board and must be submitted to OSPI in August prior to the start of school.

Also this week Superintendent Smith announced the launching of the district's 2020 Summer Learning portal opportunity for families. This webpage will provide optional, online educational experiences for students for continued learning over the summer that can be accessed on its district webpage. The district has made available a limited supply of devices, by request, for families lacking access at home by contacting Technology at (509) 527-3010.

He also reported WWPS will continue its grab and go food service program over the summer months at 17 different sites for all children ages 1-18.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED >>

Minutes from the June 2, 2020 regular study meeting, personnel report, June 16 accounts payable and May financial report.

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.

POLICY FIRST READING >>

- 3225 - School Based Threat Assessment
- 3424 - Opioid Related Overdose Reversal
- 3510 - Associated Student Bodies
- 4210 - Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
- 4215 - Use of Tobacco, Nicotine Products and Delivery Devices
- 4314 - Notification of Threats of Violence or Harm
- 6225 - Use of Electronic Signature
- 6700 - Nutrition, Health and Physical Education

HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY >>

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis reported on the last three cycles of the Healthy Youth Survey capturing data from 2014, 2016 and 2018. Krutulis reported the 2018 data suggests the vaping epidemic has reversed decades of progress reducing youth nicotine use. Although cigarette smoking in 2018 is less than half of what it was a decade ago, vaping increased significantly. WWPS will continue education in health classes, post information in bathrooms and lockerooms on the dangers of vaping and promote special events on the topic.

EMPLOYMENT ...**Classified:**

AMANDA HINRICHS | HEALTH CLINICIAN, HEALTH SRVS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...**Certificated:**

LORI THOMAS | BERNEY, 32 YEARS

- FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Arthur Ashe

Early Learning Programs

Walla Walla Center for Children and Families

Director of the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families Samantha Bowen updated the school board on progress being made at the new early learning center. She said the facility will get some updates this summer following the installation of the new roof system. The updates include exterior painting, new signage in English and Spanish, a parent lounge in the front entry and a wall to honor the history of Blue Ridge Elementary.

She said there are 260 total early learning program slots in Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program and Transitional Kindergarten for children to utilize. Presently families of 33 children have completed interest forms for the new Transitional Kindergarten program. At this time there are 36 spaces for this program with options to add slots if there is need. Camp Fire, Child Care Aware, Children's Home Society, Commitment to Community, Disability Network, ESD 123, WWCC - Parenting Education and Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition have been identified as community partners who will have a presence at the center.



This summer the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families will be freshly painted and branded with its new logo, signage and playful color scheme.

June Bond Update**Walla Walla High School**

- Jackson Contractor Group finished framing.
- The Science Building slab was polished and stained and the exterior concrete paths were poured.
- Mechanical equipment units were installed in the Science Bldg mezzanine and services connected.
- Most suspended ceiling frames installed.
- Fascia and soffits were installed around the perimeter of the new Science Building
- Finishing of the interior, including installing gypsum wallboard and initiating painting.
- The photovoltaic panel installation was completed.
- Local contractors Premier Excavation and Nelson Construction continued buried services (i.e. water, sewer, electrical, etc) across the entire campus.
- The design team submitted permit construction documents to the city for review while OSPI required Constructability Review was initiated by Wenaha Group and Jackson Contractor Group.

Pioneer Middle School

- Local contractors Royse and Nelson Construction broke ground on the Temporary Modulars and Temporary Multipurpose projects.
- McCabe Street was improved per City requirements that lead onto the construction site. The fire lane pathway was largely completed through Roosevelt.
- The sewer line was completed to provide service to the temporary bathroom unit.
- Electrical service conduit installation was initiated.
- The trenches for the foundation for the Multipurpose structure were excavated.
- The design team submitted permit construction documents to the city for review while OSPI required Constructability Review was initiated by Wenaha Group.

Blue Ridge Elementary

- Wellens General Contractors and local subcontractor Wine Country completed installing the roofing materials.
- Local subcontractor Allen Key excavated and initiated installation of the storm water systems.
- Due to a heavy rainstorm and the compromised roof, water leaked into the building and caused some minor damage. Wellens GC, Wine Country Roofing, and Wenaha have been working to make sure that all damage is repaired.