

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

August 18, 2020

Budget Approved

COVID-19, enrollment and possible state funding dips cloud budget picture

Yesterday evening Walla Walla Public Schools board members approved the 2020-21 General Fund budget as they listened closely to Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and Director of Fiscal Services Nancy Taylor review details of the budget, the 4-year budget outlook and payment schedule the state uses to compensate school districts.

"While we incorporated the Board's budget planning parameters to develop and deliver this budget, a lot has changed since those were approved this spring," said Superintendent Smith. "Based on current projections, we are likely to see a loss of well over \$2M due to enrollment, transportation and other COVID-related impacts that none of us could have anticipated in March when we began this process."

Smith reviewed the state required 4-year budget outlook document. Based on current expenditure-revenue imbalances, the district would run out of resources by 2023 if corrections are not made soon. Smith noted that many factors have led to this deficit spending forecast.

"Not only has COVID impacted our long-term projections, the lagging impact of McCleary on our reduced local levy collections, the unfunded employee insurance mandate from the state that has driven up insurance costs over \$3M, and one-time monies received this year that will not come in perpetuity, have created a disparity that will need to be corrected," said Smith. "While the Board chose to strategically spend down some of its reserves to support 2020-21 school year operations and employee costs, that was also based on a projected 400 kindergarten student count."



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"Based on current projections, we are likely to see a loss of well over \$2M due to enrollment, transportation and other COVID-related impacts that none of us could have anticipated in March when we began this process."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

Current enrollment, as reviewed by Smith, reveals that Kindergarten numbers are falling short of hitting that mark.

"Like most districts, we appear to have some parents who are considering holding off enrolling their kindergarten students this year," said Smith. "We are strongly encouraging parents to enroll their children as we are very confident in the comprehensive distance learning program we have developed and plans to immediately pivot to face-to-face instruction as soon as viral conditions allow."

Smith recommended the Board hold budget updates throughout the next few board meetings to address long-term expenditure reduction strategies in addition to current year revenue corrections the state will implement based on reduced enrollment, transportation allocations, food service and other hard-hit COVID line items.

"We have tough decisions ahead, but are entering these financially unstable times in a better position than most of our colleagues across the state," said Smith.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the July 21, 2020 regular business meeting, personnel report, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, approval of teachers/administrators who hold a limited teaching/administrative certificate, August 4 & 18 accounts payable and July payroll, July financial report, 2020-21 Perkins Grant, Head Start Policy Council Selection process, Resolution 20-2020 Pioneer MS new-in-lieu replacement option, Resolution 18-2020 - 2020-2021 Budget, Resolution 19-2020 - District Reopening Plan and Second Reading and Approval of Board Policy 2255 - ALE Courses.

BACK TO SCHOOL INFO »

Transitional Kindergarten & Kindergarten
Parent-Teacher-Student Conference Week and Start Date

- School for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will begin on Sept. 14 (Remotely).
- Individual parent-teacher-student conferences will be scheduled during the week of Sept. 8-11.

Nutrition Services

- Grab and Go meals (breakfast & lunch) will be available at six school sites from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. once school begins.
- Students not on a Free or Reduced-Price meal program will be required to pay for any meals picked up.

Attendance and Grading Criteria

- Attendance will be taken daily.
- Grading for the 2020-21 school year will revert to the grading practices previously utilized prior to the COVID closure.

EMPLOYMENT . . .**Classified:**

KARA GUIZAR | 21ST CENT SITE COORD, EDISON

TAMARA SIRMON | INSTR COORD/COACH, WWCCF

LEAVE OF ABSENCE**Classified:**

ARIANA VALVERDE | SHARPSTEIN, 5 YEARS

- FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

Technology Check Out and Practice

Walla Walla Public Schools announces important updates as it continues to plan for the first day of school Sept. 8. The district is planning a districtwide technology check-out and materials pick up activity this month as well as a "dry run" of the distance learning program technology. See details below.

Technology Check-out/Materials Pick-up (Grades 1st - 12th)

- All students will receive a Chromebook device for the school year as part of our 1-1 Tech Initiative.
- Families in need will also be issued an internet hotspot for online connectivity if they do not have internet at home.
- The district will be providing classroom supplies for all elementary and middle school students this year. There is no need for you to purchase any student supplies. In addition, at-home materials to support our comprehensive remote learning experience will also be provided during this pick-up event.
- Technology/materials pick-up: Mon., Aug. 31 and Tues., Sept. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Location: child's school).

Technology Practice Session

- 1st -12th grade WWPS students will conduct a technology trial "dry run" on Thursday, Sept. 3 with their teacher. Detailed information about the dry run session will be provided when your student picks up their device.

Additional Information

Visit the district's website: <https://www.wwps.org/safely-reopening-schools/>

August Bond Update**Walla Walla High School**

- In July, the main construction package was advertised for public bidding.
- Jackson Contractor Group reached out to subcontractors to ensure robust subcontractor coverage on all aspects of the construction work being bid.
- Finishes and hardware were worked on throughout the Science Building including: placing cabinets, painting, placing ceiling tiles, installing lights, placing glass/glazing, installing tackable surfaces, and tiling of the hallway.
- Around the campus hydronic, water, sewer, electrical conduit, and other utility services have been installed underground.
- Jackson worked with the design team to address potential construction issues throughout the month in order to prevent potential issues on the main bid packages.
- WWPS received the D8 form from OSPI which authorizes the district to open sub bids and negotiate the maximum allowable construction cost (MACC).

Pioneer Middle School

- The project was publicly advertised for bidding and a pre-bid meeting was held. The project appears to be getting a very positive interest from the contracting community.
- Nelson Construction completed erecting the tent structure.
 - Walla Walla Electric worked on connecting the tent and portables to the electrical utilities.
 - The initial portable install was completed on July 31 so the team can begin getting them ready for school.
 - WWPS received the D8 form from OSPI which authorizes the district to open bids.

Blue Ridge Elementary

- Wellens General Contractors wrapped up painting and interior work.
- The roofing work is mostly complete with crews continuing to work on some items to ensure long term performance of the system.

See More Bond Updates
[wwps.org/bond](https://www.wwps.org/bond)