

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

March 16, 2021

Walla Walla Online

New program provides another high quality learning option



Carina Stillman
WW Online Director

Walla Walla Online Director Carina Stillman and educators Alison Kimball, Stacy McPherson, Tressa Baker and Amy Ford provided school board members an update on the district's online school.

Walla Walla Online was formed last summer after parents and students voiced a desire for an alternative learning setting for health and safety reasons amidst the pandemic.

Rather than lose these local students to a national online program, Walla Walla Public Schools' leaders began researching how to create a K-12 program in Walla Walla. The first step was promoting Carina Stillman to director and partnering with a vendor to provide the online curriculum. The district partnered with Edgenuity for core subjects in English/Language Arts, math, science and social studies. Electives are also offered.

Initially the district estimated it would serve about 200 students, but demand increased as the program was discovered. Currently there are 413 active students enrolled, with 665 total students served at some point during the

school year. Stillman and her team reported on several success stories for the year. Approximately 80% of elementary students are experiencing great success. A total of 569 high school credits have been earned and the school boasts a 94% middle and high school pass rate. Also, 34 middle and high school students earned straight A's.

Parent and student feedback has been positive in recent surveys. In recent surveys, parents and students alike provided high marks for the program and its staff. Program schedule flexibility is a hit with families as well as the students' ability to work at their own pace.

Teachers report they have forged strong partnerships with families and enjoy the collaborative culture of the school. Stillman says she expects approximately 200 students to enroll next year.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from March 2 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, March 16 accounts payable, February Financial Report, Resolution #01-2021 Budget Extension - Transportation Vehicle Fund and Asset Preservation program.

ENROLLMENT & BUDGET »

Enrollment figures were flat from February to March as the district only dropped 2 FTE this reporting period. Currently there are 5464 FTE enrolled, down 108 FTE since October. This slide follows a similar statewide trend linked to the pandemic. Revenue and expenditures are within margins of budget targets and the projected 9% fund balance meets the board requirement of a 6 to 8% reserve.

SUMMER SOL 2021 »

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported the district is planning an extensive P-12 summer program funded by federal COVID relief dollars. Brent Cummings, Director of the new Accelerated Learning and Support Department, is leading the planning efforts for Summer Sol. This program will feature academic and activity-based offerings.

BR PARENT FEEDBACK »

The district recently surveyed parents of former Blue Ridge students. Feedback has been positive about the transition.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE »

Last night, Wa-Hi student representative Jaden Bergevin said students are thrilled to be back on campus and busy with activities.

World Language Curriculum Adoption

New curriculum aligns to state and national standards

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis briefed the school board on the district's World Language curriculum adoption for grades 6-12. The district offers French, German and Spanish language choices. It has been 13 years since the last adoption and Krutulis says there are new state and national standards which this new curriculum will align. This approximately \$200,000 investment is linked to the Strategic Plan and school board's commitment to ensure up-to-date curriculum for students. Wa-Hi Spanish teacher Stephanie Garcia is excited about the adoption.

"We are so grateful and appreciative," said Garcia. "World Language is about communication and making connections and this new curriculum will allow our students to have real life experiences with other parts of the world."

Orders will be placed in May so teachers have all the materials and training to start the 2021-2022 school year.

EMPLOYMENT ...**Certificated:**

MARIANO LEDESMA | ELEM DUAL, 2021-22 TBD

Classified:

NIKKOLENA RILEY | SP ED PARA-ED, LINCOLN HS

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...**Certificated:**

HOLLIS ERIKSON | PIONEER MS, 7 YRS

MISHA GUDERIAN | PIONEER MS, 5 YRS

KEITH REARDON | PROSPECT PT, 21 YRS

(KEITH WAS ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR 2020-21)

Classified:

LEONARD ADAMS | SE WA TRANSPORTATION, 29 YRS

PETER HIXSON | SHARPSTEIN, 4 YRS

KAREN LARSON | GARRISON MS, 7 YRS

JENNIFER MANN | WWCCF, 2 YRS

NATHANIEL PAINE | LINCOLN HS, 3 YRS

ARACELI ROMERO | OPPORTUNITY/WW ONLINE, 2 YRS

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

JEN HEIN | WA-HI, 8 YRS

- FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

NILDA WILLIAMS | EDISON, 25 YRS

- FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

"You have to go wholeheartedly into anything in order to achieve anything worth having."

Frank Lloyd Wright

Bond Program Update - February 2021**Walla Walla High School**

- Building 1 (VoAg) Roofing work completed.
- Building 2 (Old Science), HVAC, plumbing, electrical and drywall continued. New windows being installed new courtyard designed.
- Building 3 (Commons) Interior demolition to prepare for the upcoming renovation and addition. Also, trenches for the addition's foundation was dug and prepped for concrete. During demo of the garbage enclosure a power main was discovered. It is unknown how the presence of this line will effect overall schedule going forward.
- Building 4 (Library) At the new addition, structural steel was placed, roof framing was initiated, wall framing was prepped and work on the mezzanine deck began. In the portion not occupied, framing, sheet rock, new plumbing/electrical/HVAC systems were installed.
- Building 6 (Gym addition) Slab poured & structural steel.
- Building 7 (Auditorium addition) Structural steel completed, roof and wall framing underway.

Pioneer Middle School

- Jackson Contractor Group brings site to a uniform grade.
- The foundations for the addition were poured.
- The plumbing for the new kitchen and the storm water systems were installed below grade.
- Electrical conduits were placed below grade.
- The new concrete slab was poured in the existing gym and locker rooms.
- The south hall had new subflooring installed and the new walls were furred out to prepare for drywall installation.
- The classroom addition had its slab on grade poured and framing activities for the roof and walls were initiated.
- The site was impacted by weather but Jackson is working with Wenaha Group to see if there are ways to mitigate any delays.

Energy Management Program**District continues to trim usage and avoid costs**

District Energy Management Program Coordinator John Butenhoff updated the school board on Year 21 of the program. This program was implemented two decades ago to avoid wasting utilities in order to save money to be used for instructional needs and maximize taxpayer dollars. This year, WWPS used 19% less electricity and 23% less natural gas. When adjusting the cost of utility rates from base numbers, WWPS saved 40% on electricity costs, 24% on natural gas fees and 12% on water expenditures.

"These savings are so great because we are using less energy with rates that are more than 120% higher on electricity, over 65% higher on natural gas and up 146% on water costs," said Butenhoff. "The rate increases equate to more than \$890,000 additional costs the district is avoiding through this program."

Over the past 21 years, the WWPS Energy Management Program has saved over 25% in energy usage and \$7.5M.

Energy Management Program Overview:

- The Energy Management program uses Energy CAP software to track utility usage.
- Utilities Monitored: Electricity, Gas, Water / Sewer/, Sanitation.

**School Retirees
Appreciation Week**

March 15-21, 2021

