



10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »
October 19, 2021

Annual Board Update

English Learner & Dual Immersion Program

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith, Director of Equity and Dual Programs Dr. Julie Perron and Long-term English Learner Program Specialist Amy Kasenga shared an overview of the district's English Language Learners programs.

Since the school board voted in March 2017 to approve a recommendation from the Bilingual Education Recommendation Committee (BERC) to improve the program, several gains have been made. Students are scoring above the state average on English Language Proficiency Assessments, Dual Language program enrollment remains strong, Spanish is offered in middle school and the number of students earning their Seal of Biliteracy has doubled from a few years prior.

The BERC recommendations centered around increasing academic performance for non-English speaking students and program alignment related to curriculum and professional development.

Currently the district serves 763 English Language Learners and approximately 1/3 are considered Long-term English Learners because they have not reached proficiency in English after receiving services for five or more years. Kasenga was hired to her new role this school year to put systems in place

to help students who have stalled in their progress.

"These students are socially bilingual, but they are academically stagnant," said Kasenga.

Dr. Perron says the district is making this a focus area.

"We're really targeting those students who are still English Learners after so many years," said Dr. Perron. "Our plans are to increase their abilities in English by specifically designed instruction, more support and consistent monitoring."

Next steps for the program:

- Calibration of dual programs, K-5 with World Language Options.
- Expand middle school dual language.
- Continue to create equitable environments for all English learners.
- Provide after school tutoring opportunities
- Promote services to Migrant families
- Identify HS Long-term English Learners in the "supportive mainstream" who need ongoing intervention, utilizing one-on-one conferences and flex time group support.
- Promote/expand Seal of Biliteracy.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »»

Minutes from Oct. 5 regular study meeting and executive session, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, October 19 accounts payable and September financial report, Resolution 11-2021 Transfer of Real Property and Resolution 12-2021 Certification of excess 2022 property taxes.

ENROLLMENT REPORT »»

Superintendent Smith reported the district's enrollment FTE count for October is 5503. This is up 165 FTE from September, in large part due to Running Start programs at Walla Walla Community College being counted for the first time this school year. Also, elementary counts went up this month, while middle and high school remained flat.

HS STUDENT REPORT »»

Last night Walla Walla High School Senior Rachel Clark, who serves as the school's liaison to the school board, provided an update on high school activities. Clark said the homecoming dance was amazing. Nearly 1000 students attended the outdoor homecoming dance at the district's transportation facility. This was the largest turnout for homecoming in recent history.

2021 Homecoming Court:

Adeline Hood and Sergio Gomez
Emily Smith and Trenton Walters
Natty Salazar and Dash Sirmon
Rachel Clark and Diego Jaques
Queen Brynn Watilo and King Logan Ashbeck

Rachel says students are considering a Winter Dance at the transportation facility.

WWPS Service Models

English Learning Development: Students not participating in dual immersion receive ELD support in small groups (dedicated) and within the classroom (integrated). This is available at all elementary schools, as well as middle and high school.

Two-Way Dual Immersion Programs: An approach that targets two language groups of students with two languages of instruction (Spanish and English). Kinder begins with 80% instruction in Spanish, and 20% instruction in English. This is the model in place at both Edison and Green Park.

Supportive Mainstream: An approach that monitors and supports EL students within the general education setting, with scaffolding as needed, small group instruction and teacher teaming.

EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

BROOKE CRAMER, HEALTH CLINICIAN, GARRISON/
PIONEER MS

JULIA KAJITA, PARA-EDUCATOR, GREEN PARK/BERNEY

JEANETTE NUNO-HERRERA, ASSOC TEACHER, WWCCF

TIMOTHY WIK, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATON

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...

Classified:

NADIA CHAVEZ, OPPORTUNITY, 6 MONTHS

Quote of the Week

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman

Bond Monthly Report

On budget and on schedule

Construction continues at Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School and Pioneer Middle School following the successful 2018 bond election.

Each month the district publishes a Projects Update Report and Master Budget Dashboard. These reports are part of the Bond Oversight Committee’s work to ensure accountability and fiscal transparency. All projects are on budget and on schedule.

Lincoln High School



Walla Walla High School



Pioneer Middle School

