

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

February 8, 2022

New Strategic Plan

Board gears up to engage stakeholders

Last night School Board President Mrs. Ruth Ladderud discussed the steps the school board would take to develop the district's next Strategic Plan. Five years ago the school board embarked on a year-long stakeholder engagement and evaluation process that culminated in the development of the school district's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

This planning included more than one dozen survey and community engagement sessions to inform the work and a review of 35 different district performance indicators. The school board established bold performance targets, researched best practices, and invested in staff and strategies to achieve the desired outcomes.

The results over the past five years have been impressive. Middle school reading and math scores are up. Student participation in extra and co-curricular activities are on the rise. The number of students taking and passing AP exams is higher than ever. Kindergarten readiness scores are up. Graduation rates are at an all-time high and dropout rates are at an all-time low.

Ladderud reported the district wants to keep



Mrs. Ruth Ladderud
School Board President

this momentum moving forward with the development of the next Strategic Plan. She noted the district will conduct another comprehensive outreach program in the fall to re-engage staff, students and stakeholders to inform their next strategic planning process. She said the district will widely share opportunities to get involved and provide input when the time comes. This spring school board members will continue reviewing data, engage in an equity audit and breakdown outcomes from the current Strategic Plan.

President Ladderud said she expects to have a finalized plan ready to implement at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the Jan. 18, 2022 regular business meeting and executive session, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, and Feb. 1 accounts payable and Jan. payroll.

COVID UPDATE »

Health Services Director Amy Ruff said things are looking up as it relates to COVID. She said the case count at WWPS seems to be mirroring the drop noted by the WW Dept of Community Health and the WADOH. Over the past 24 hours, tests done by WWPS show a 12% positivity rate, compared to the positivity rate of 29% for a random 24-hour period in January. Ruff said the district is seeing significant slowing in positive cases. Currently there are 113 students and 17 staff members within their 10 day isolation period. Ruff said the district has 2800 rapid COVID tests in the warehouse, and 2500 on order.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE »

School Board President Ruth Ladderud is keeping an eye on activities in Olympia and provided a brief legislative update.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH »

Walla Walla Public Schools joins countries across the globe in recognizing February as Black History Month. Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month. The Black History Month 2022 theme, "Black Health and Wellness," explores the legacy of Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, including birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths and herbalists throughout the African Diaspora.

Strategic Plan performance indicators trend up

Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea reviewed progress made on quantitative data over the past four years since the inception of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan. Gardea noted significant progress from 2016 to 2020 following implementation of the district's current Strategic Plan which focuses on improving instruction, aligned systems, social and emotional support and safe and engaging learning environments.

In 2016, Gardea reported only three of the 35 local performance indicators measured showed improvement or exceeded state percentages, and 12 indicators lost ground compared to the state. In 2020, this trend changed drastically with 22 of the 35 indicators representing improvement with respect to the State. The 35 performance indicators measured by the district range from Smarter Balanced results and Advanced Placement courses taken to daily attendance rates and the number or remedial courses taken in college by district graduates.

Gardea said the past two years have been difficult to gauge performance due to the pandemic. Most of the data after 2020 was either not available or is not reliable because of the impacts of the pandemic. He said he is looking forward to moving beyond the challenges of COVID.

EMPLOYMENT . . .**Classified:**

CARLEA GUESS, TEMP HEAD START ASST TEACHER, WWCCF (2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR)

JAMIE NOFFSINGER, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION

ROBERT "ROB" SNOW, PARA-EDUCATOR, EDISON

ANN WILSON, PARA-EDUCATOR, SHARPSTEIN

CYNTHIA ZUNIGA, HEAD ST BIL FAMILY ADVOC, WWCCF

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

LISA BRADDOCK, BERNEY ELEMENTARY, 33 YEARS

MIKE BRADDOCK, GARRISON MS, 33 YEARS

DARLENE GREENWOOD, PROSPECT POINT, 34 YEARS

SPENCER IACOLUCCI, WA-HI, 9 YEARS

DIANE MIRES, WALLA WALLA ONLINE, 18 YEARS

Classified:

PATTIE BACKOUS EAGON, WA-HI, 33 YEARS

ISAAC HATCH, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 3 MONTHS

TARA POTTER, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP, 3 MONTHS

MONICA TORRES, SHARPSTEIN ELEMENTARY, 8.5 YEARS

SARAH ZIPF, TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT OFFICE, 18.5 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE . . .**Classified:**

SERENA VICARI, PROSPECT POINT ELEMENTARY, 3.5 YEARS

• FEB 14, - JUNE 1, 2022 TO COMPLETE STUDENT TEACHING

Quote of the Week

"Change is the end result of all true learning."

Leo Buscaglia

School Board Committee Assignments

School board President Ruth Ladderud led a review and discussion of the school board's committee assignments. Below are the current School Board Committee assignments.

Administrator Consult and Confer**: Ruth Ladderud

Administrative Finance Committee*: Ruth Ladderud, Eric Rindal

Administrative Policy Committee*: Ruth Ladderud, Kathy Mulkerin

Career/Technical Education***: Eric Rindal

Certificated Negotiations**: Derek Sarley

Classified Negotiations**: Derek Sarley

Equity & Access Committee*: Kathy Mulkerin, Terri Trick

Graduates of Distinction Committee***: Terri Trick

Head Start Policy Council***: Kathy Mulkerin

Instructional Materials Committee*: Terri Trick

Legislative Representative***: Derek Sarley

Safe Schools***: Eric Rindal

School Health Advisory Committee*: Eric Rindal

Special Education Advisory Committee*: Derek Sarley

Data Information Systems Committee*: Eric Rindal, Ruth Ladderud

Type of Committee: *Administrative, **Board Sub-Committee, ***Other

School Counseling Week

National School Counseling Week 2022, "School Counseling: Better Together," is being celebrated Feb. 7–11, 2022, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do.

"School counseling programs help to increase student achievement and provide a much-needed resource for students, parents, teachers and administrators," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "School counselors are integral to student success."

School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing students' academic concerns, career options and social/emotional skills.

