

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

May 17, 2022

Student Advisory Council

Adult-Life Prep Class

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith established the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SAC) two years ago. The SAC consists of 16 students, in grades 9-12, open to students who currently attend Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School, Opportunity Program or Walla Walla Online.

The SAC was established by Dr. Smith to intentionally seek out student voice and respond to the specific needs of Walla Walla Public Schools' high school students. The group meets regularly throughout the school year.

SAC students identified the need for an Adult-Life Prep Class as one of their top priorities. This "Adulting 101" course would teach financial literacy, 21st Century skills, mental wellbeing, and important life skills like changing a car tire. The need for this course was born out of surveys the SAC students sent to current and past seniors, in addition to community leaders and parents. Superintendent Smith plans to bring them in

"Establishing an 'adult-life preparatory' class for all students was included in their identified initiatives for 2020-22. They are passionate about this topic."

[Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent](#)

to discuss the class at a future board meeting. Curriculum Coordinator Casey Monahan and Wa-Hi English Teacher Katie Woolcutt discussed how they are working with the students in preparation for developing this new course.



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the May 3, 2022 regular study meeting, personnel report, teachers assigned out of endorsement area, May 17 accounts payable and April financial report.

GEAR UP UPDATE »

GEAR UP staff reported they will take a student to the Youth Leadership Summit in WA DC this summer and are planning more college visits.

BUDGET/ENROLLMENT »

Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor reported revenues and expenditures for March are in alignment with projections. The district will closely monitor expenditures throughout the fiscal year to ensure the ending fund balance remains within board requirements of 6 to 8 percent. Currently it is at 6 percent and is expected to end slightly above 7 percent to end the year.

Enrollment was up 11 students from last month, but still remains under beginning year budget projections and well below prior years. This is primarily due to smaller kindergarten and first grade classes. Superintendent Smith reported the limited housing inventory and skyrocketing housing costs in Walla Walla is likely the contributing to the enrollment dip as homeschool and private school numbers remain consistent. He said recent candidates for positions in the district withdrew from consideration due to housing concerns.

HS STUDENT REPORT »

Last night Walla Walla High School Senior Rachel Clark reported last month's prom was a big success. Students are planning for a Finals Frolic June 3 and Club Carnival June 7. Thank you for your service Rachel.

Building Belonging Awards

Last night Prospect Point Elementary's Isaac Destito, and James Shipp from Garrison Middle School, received the district's new Building Belonging award. Director of Equity and Dual Programs Dr. Julie Perron established this award to recognize students who promote activities that create and sustain a sense of belonging, fairness, and justice for all students.

Isaac wrote an autobiography about what it is like to be autistic from his perspective. He read his book to students at Prospect Point to bring awareness to autism.

James is an advocate for students on the margins and other students look to him for support and advice. He works hard to engage students in the SEL classrooms.



Isaac Destito - Prospect Point



James Shipp - Garrison MS

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated:

JACOB CROFT, COUNSELOR (2022-23), WA-HI

LEIDY MARTINEZ, TEMP ELD (2022-23), WA-HI

MARILEE STIMMEL, SPEC ED AUTISM TEACHER (2022-23), SHARPSTEIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Classified:

HEATHER ALEXENKO, HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER (2022-23), WWCCF

• HEATHER WAS TEMPORARY FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

CARLEA GUESS, HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER (2022-23), WWCCF

• CARLEA WAS TEMPORARY FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

GABRIELA REYES, HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER (2022-23), WWCCF

• GABRIELA WAS TEMPORARY FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

VIOLA SARDINA, HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER (2022-23), WWCCF

• VIOLA WAS TEMPORARY FOR 2021-2022

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS

Administration:

STACY ESTES, ASST PRINCIPAL, WA-HI, 11 YEARS

Certificated:

JORDON POYNOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION, 8 YEARS

Classified:

JENNIFER APPLE, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY, 6 MONTHS

MARY ERDMAN, GARRISON MIDDLE SCHOOL, 23 YEARS

CODY FINN, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 1 YEAR

RUBY GONZALEZ, PROSPECT POINT ELEMENTARY, 5 YEARS

TERESA MARTINEZ, WWCCF, 20 YEARS

KRYS MARTZ, SE WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION, 8 MONTHS

LYNN PORTER BINGHAM, GREEN PARK AND EDISON, 4 YEARS

FATIMA ROBLES, WWCCF, 8 MONTHS

CHERI RUZICKA, WWCCF, 3 YEARS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Certificated:

MARIA GREEN, WA-HI, 2 YEARS

BAILEY HAYES, PROSPECT POINT ELEMENTARY, 3 YEARS

• TO SERVE AS THE PROSPECT POINT INTERIM ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Partners of the Year

May is Partners in Learning Month. The district established Partners in Learning Month in May 2010. This month the district sent nearly 200 proclamations and letters of recognition to our Partners in Learning. We so appreciate the individuals, businesses, organizations and agencies who partner with the district throughout the year to support our students.

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith named Chervenell Construction, Jackson Contractor Group, Walla Walla Big Blue Boosters and the Walla Walla Valley Disability Network Partners of the Year.



Casey Waddell
Big Blue Boosters



Larnie Opp
Chervenell Construction



Angie Witt & Cyndy Knight
WW Valley Disability Network



Rylan Oakland
Jackson Contractor Group

Curriculum Adoption

Last night Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis provided an update to the school board on the adoption of new K-5 science curriculum and new K-12 social emotional learning curriculum. She reported the district's curriculum adoption process met all district guidelines and she will seek approval from the school board in June. Once approved, Krutulis and her team will order materials and set dates for teacher professional development.

Bond Update

Progress continues on bond projects at Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School and Pioneer Middle School. Students and staff will soon be able to occupy the new black box theater, greenroom/music room and support spaces for the school's drama program.

At Pioneer Middle School, contractors are working on new science classrooms, art room and, exterior siding and site development.

Lincoln High School is getting a complete modernization of the 1927 school. Classrooms are getting finished and the entryway and drama addition are shaping up. All projects remain on budget and on schedule.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies and tours are planned at all three schools this fall.