

# 10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »  
September 20, 2022

## Findings from focus group listening sessions

*Study aims to deepen understanding of students' experiences*

Walla Walla Public Schools recently partnered with Education Northwest to conduct a study with local focus groups to deepen the understanding of what barriers impact success in school.

Director of Equity and Dual Programs Dr. Julie Perron shared an update with school board members about the study. She reported focus groups, consisting of administrators, teachers, students and parents -- both English and Spanish speaking, met in the spring for a series of listening sessions.

Objectives of these listening sessions included to deepen understanding of successes and barriers, to explore students' perceptions of their school experience and to investigate support and resources needed to improve the bond between school and home.

Key learnings from the listening sessions focused on access to learning, curriculum and instruction, school climate, professional development and building a representative workforce.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED »

Minutes from September 6 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, September 20 accounts payable, August Financial Report and Christian Aid Center Letter of Support.

### POLICY APPROVAL »

Board members approved Policy No. 6035 - Lease Capitalization Threshold.

### HIGH SCHOOL REPORT »

School board members received an update from high school Board Representative Joseph Segovia. He reported 338 freshmen participated in freshmen orientation to start the school year. Wa-Hi held its first all school assembly in two years on Sept. 9. He said ASB leaders have been busy planning this week's Homecoming activities. This year ASB is focused on creating a "Family of Blue Devils" school culture where everyone belongs and feels welcome.

### FINANCIAL REPORT »

Director of Fiscal Services Nancy Taylor reported the district expects enrollment to meet its 2022-2023 budget target of 5382 FTE. She says the enrollment picture will become clearer next month when all the program numbers are submitted and accounted for during the October reporting period.

Taylor says 2021-2022 General Fund budget year end closing will occur in mid-October. She says the ending fund balance will come in slightly higher than expected, well within the school board policy of 6-8 percent.

### Focus Groups Recommendations

1. Intentionally recruit, hire, and support educators and administrators from diverse backgrounds.
2. Increase professional development opportunities for educators and administrators on centering diversity, equity, and inclusion within the classroom.
3. Increase and streamline communication throughout the district and broader community.
4. Continue dismantling barriers in providing accessible advanced coursework and learning opportunities to all students.
5. Develop curriculum that is inclusive.

## Wa-Hi senior receives prestigious state leadership award

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith presented the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Student Leadership Award to Walla Walla High School senior Miki Joshua. The WASA recognition is based on demonstrating leadership and serving as a role model by organizing events that promote respect for diversity, equity and individual differences.

"Miki has taken a leadership role by advocating for students, supporting belonging, cultural competency and awareness, and playing a pivotal role in a student-directed video used to elevate student voice and experience to support staff development," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "Miki was the cofounder of the students for social justice club at Wa-Hi, the founder and President of the black student union, a member of the Green club, GSA, girls league officer, participated in the district's diversify our narrative initiative, and received the district's building belonging award. Miki is a shining example as one of Walla Walla's finest who has a bright future ahead of her."



**EMPLOYMENT . . .**

**Certificated:**

NONE TO REPORT

**Classified:**

RICHARD COLE, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP  
 DEAN DAVIS, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP  
 DALLIN DYE, BUS ASSISTANT, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP  
 MARISSA HUGHETT, HS INSTRUCTIONAL COACH, WWCCF  
 MARTHA KEHREIN, BUS ASSISTANT, TRANSPORTATION  
 SANDRA REAVIS, BUS ASSISTANT, TRANSPORTATION  
 LISA RUCHERT, BUS ASSISTANT, TRANSPORTATION  
 ITZEL SALAZAR, 21ST CEN SITE COORD, GREEN PARK  
 CAROLINA SALDANA, BIL PARA-ED, PIONEER MS  
 RUBI VILLEGAS, PARA-ED, GREEN PARK

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .**

**Classified:**

AMIE BARNETT, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP, 13 YEARS  
 RICHARD BARTLOW, PROSPECT POINT, 29 YEARS  
 RHODA EHRMAN, WWCCF, 30 YEARS  
 MICHAEL GARCIA, PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL, 7 YEARS  
 TIFFANY TEAL, BERNEY ELEMENTARY, 5 YEARS

**Quote of the Week**

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

Sydney J. Harris

**New ThoughtExchange Survey**

*What are we doing well and what can we improve on*

This month Walla Walla Public Schools began Phase 2 of a six phase Strategic Planning process by gathering input from stakeholders in a variety of ways. Over the next several weeks, the district will engage parents, staff, students and community members through face-to-face meetings, focus groups and other engagements.

Phase 2 will also include a public ThoughtExchange engagement to survey stakeholders on what is going well and what can be improved. The ThoughtExchange survey will remain open through September 23 at 4 p.m. Students, parents, staff and community members are encouraged to participate. The survey is available in multiple language formats.

Phase 1 of the planning process kicked off with an introduction and preliminary ThoughtExchange in May. When asked what are the most important skills and attributes our graduates must gain in order to prepare them for success after graduation, consistent themes across stakeholder groups emerged. The twelve thoughts receiving the highest scores included many soft skills and traits such as respect, problem solving, perseverance, critical thinking skills and work ethic.

**JOIN OUR THOUGHTEXCHANGE**

Question: What do you value most about Walla Walla Public Schools and what can we do better to prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of the future?

Visit the district website to share your input. [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies**

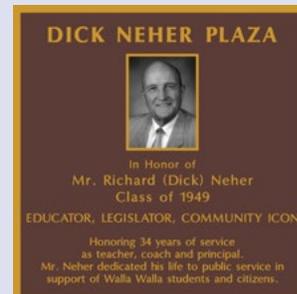
The district continues to deliver on its bond promise with the announcement of ribbon cutting ceremonies and campus tours of all three major renovation projects. All projects are on schedule and on budget. Please mark these dates on your calendar and celebrate with the school district on these historic accomplishments.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies & Public Tours**

Walla Walla High School  
 - Wednesday, Sept. 21  
 - 4 to 6 p.m. (Dick Neher Plaza Commemoration will also take place)

Pioneer Middle School  
 - Wednesday, Sept. 28  
 - 4 to 6 p.m.

Lincoln High School  
 - Wednesday, Oct. 5  
 - 4 to 6 p.m.



*Delivering on our Promise*