

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »
October 4, 2022

ThoughtExchange Survey Results High praise for district educators

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith led a discussion with school board members last night on the results of the Fall 2022 ThoughtExchange. Nearly 150 family, community and staff weighed in on what the district is doing well and what it can improve upon.

The latest exchange is part of Phase 2 of a six phase Strategic Planning process. Phase 2 is centered on gathering input from stakeholders in a variety of ways, including engaging parents, staff, students and community members through face-to-face meetings and focus groups. Next the district will synthesize information gathered this fall before developing a draft plan to review and refine. In January and February the district will operationalize the plan, then implement it this spring. Visit the district's Strategic Plan website to learn more: www.wwps.org

expectations capable standards good communication kids support level staff belonging value teach parents individual feel caring skills important district best build relationships work college education create interests grade many program learning



Dr. Wade Smith Superintendent

"The ThoughtExchange summary noted the district has bright and caring teachers, that relationships are highly values, and that the district should continue efforts towards elevating student voice by bringing students to the table.

Parents and community members also appreciated the work we are doing toward ensuring a sense belonging for all and commended the district for our work around communication and engagement."

Dr. Wade Smith. Superintendent

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED

Minutes from September 20 regular business meeting, personnel report, October 4 accounts payable and September payroll.

LINCOLN HS RIBBON CUTTING

The district continues to deliver on its bond promises with its final ribbon cutting ceremony and campus tour of Lincoln High School following a major renovation and expansion. Please come celebrate with the school district for this historic event.

Lincoln High School

- Wednesday, Oct. 5 / 4 to 6 p.m.
- · Ribbon Cutting & Tour

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

October is National Principals Month and an opportunity to acknowledge and support the important work of principals. These exceptional leaders demonstrate daily a tireless dedication to their students and the schools they serve.

Principals are excellent listeners who show care for all. They are fair and consistent and connect people by earning their trust. Please join us in celebrating and honoring Walla Walla Public Schools' incredible principals for their visionary leadership and tireless pursuit of success for each student. Thank you for your leadership in being a guiding light for Walla Walla schools.



Top 10 Thoughts from Fall 2022 ThoughtExchange Survey

- 1. We have bright, caring teachers!
- 2. Increase student voice.
- 3. I value the teachers dedication and hard work to create valuable learning environments.
- 4. The teachers and the relationships they build with the students is what I value most.
- 5. We have staff that genuinely care about kids.
- 6. Culture of caring. Some of the best people in our community are our teachers.
- 7. The work of belonging is a good idea but the district isn't quite there yet.
- 8. I appreciate how forward thinking this school district is -- during the pandemic you were a leader in our state in preparedness.
- 9. Students need to learn about diversity and our history.
- 10. WWPS does a great job communicating with the community regarding plans and changes they are needing to make.



EMPLOYMENT

Classified:

KASE HUMBERT, CUSTODIAN, PIONEER MS
ZACHARY HUXEL, CUSTODIAN, GREEN PARK/SHARPSTEIN
KRYSTAL KNUDSON, PARA-ED, GARRISON MS

Quote of the Week

"Education is the transmission of civilization"

Will Durant

WWPS 2023 Legislative Priorities

District reaching out to elected officials

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and district lobbyist Marie Sullivan joined school board members in discussing legislative priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session in Olympia.

Sullivan is networked with the state's elected officials and is engaging with them to ensure they are aware of the district's position on these key issues. Superintendent Smith and school board members will also connect with locally elected officials from the 16th District to raise awareness on these legislative priorities.

Preserve High Quality Transitional Kindergarten

Walla Walla Public Schools supports legislation that sets consistent parameters to operate Transitional Kindergarten while maintaining flexibility to allow school districts to meet the needs of their underserved learners and their families, and continued funding for TK as part of Basic Education.

Fully Fund Special Education

Walla Walla Public Schools calls on the Legislature to close the gap between what it costs to provide services to students with disabilities who are being served by an Individual Education Plan. In addition, the district supports policies that would remove the arbitrary 13.5% cap that, in many cases, underrepresents the actual population being served.

Ensure Small District Access to Regional Skill Center Programming and Opportunities

Walla Walla Public Schools supports legislation and budget that would hold harmless state-identified small high schools (<300 FTE) when at least 10 percent of the sending high school's combined 11th and 12th grade student headcount is enrolled at the skill center. To qualify for the hold harmless funding (1.0 FTE), students in the sending district must be a full time enrolled student (1.0 FTE), and attend half or more of their day at the skill center.

Maintain Experience Factor

Walla Walla Public Schools seeks stable and predictable funding to attract educators and retain its current work force. This includes a funding enhancement for districts whose average teacher experience and education are in excess of the state's average, necessary to close the gap between what the state provides an average teacher salary and the actual cost a district incurs as a result of an experienced and highly educated workforce.

Also, any district that receives the 4% experience factor shall have its funding maintained for at least two school years if the formula splits percentages for above-average experience and education.