

Walla Walla Public Schools

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 6, 2015

Golden Onion Award

Funds to support classroom needs



Chris Gardea

Executive Director of Human Resources Chris Gardea presented Gillespie Golden Onion awards to Mario Uribe (Edison - 5th grade teacher), Kimberly Gradwohl (Pioneer MS math/AVID teacher), and Erica "Riki" Wauchek (Lincoln High School English/Speech/Drama teacher). Each recipient received \$500 for use in their classroom or to better their teaching skills.

Longtime Walla Walla resident and one-time teacher Sue Gillespie and her husband Mike established the "Golden Onion Award" to provide school supplies, equipment and

professional development funds to Walla Walla educators.

Carry LaRoy nominated Uribe. She said he is a proud leader at Edison Elementary and is passionate about teaching dual language. Debra Field nominated Gradwohl. She said Kimberly is continually changing and adapting her teaching style to inspire learning. Stephanie Gomsrud nominated Wauchek. She said Riki works tirelessly to provide students unique learning experiences and creative lessons.



PHOTO L-R: School Board President Sam Wells, Riki Wauchek, Dr. Mike and Sue Gillespie. Riki says she plans to use her \$500 grant to support the Lincoln High School Drama program. This year she is directing Alice in Wonderland. The funds will help pay for costumes.

Board Meeting Highlights

■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the September 1 and 15 school board meetings, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra/co-curricular contracts, October 6 accounts payable and September payroll.

■ Budget Update . . .

Business Services Executive Director Ted Cohan reported the Business Office will soon officially close the books on the 2014-2015 budget. He projects an ending fund balance reserve above \$6 million. This is slightly higher than anticipated when the 2015-2016 budget was approved in August.

He also reported the district's enrollment target after the second official count is approximately 160 FTEs above beginning year projections. The district set its target at 5710 FTE for the 2015-2016 budget. Each FTE generates \$6,319.25 in revenue. The October FTE count rests at 5871, which includes Running Start and Alternative Education Program (AEP) students attending classes at Walla Walla Community College.

Cohan said he is pleased with the enrollment cushion to start the year and will be discussing options with the school board and leadership team on how to best use the additional revenue.

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated

BETHANY JENSEN | TITLE I (.5 TEMP)
Blue Ridge Elementary

Classified:

ANDRAYA ANDERSON | PARA-EDUCATOR
Green Park Elementary

CATHERINE BARRANCO | PARA-EDUCATOR
Blue Ridge Community Preschool

PATRICIA MORALES | ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Nutrition Services

SCOTT POTTER | ELECTRICIAN
Facilities and Operations

SAMANTHA RUIZ | ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Walla Walla High School

SARAH VILLANUEVA | PARA-EDUCATOR
Green Park Elementary

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS ...

Classified:

MARA PALUMBO | 2 YEARS | BLUE RIDGE PRESCHOOL

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL ...

Bill Bialozor to attend JROTC competitions in LaPine, OR, Lebanon, OR, and Salem, OR (Funding: CTE)

Lisa Davis to attend History/Geology Team Building in Washington, DC (Funding: Staff Achievement)

Kim Doepker to attend Leading the Core Workshop in Chicago, IL (Funding: Student Achievement Partners Principal Travel)

Robert Elizondo to attend LaCosecha Conference in Albuquerque, NM (Funding: Bilingual)

Mark Mebes to attend JROTC competitions in LaPine, OR, Lebanon, OR, Camp Perry, OH, Anniston, AL, Salt Lake City, UT, and Salem, OR (Funding: CTE and ASB)

Catherine Wolpert to attend NAEYC National Conference in Orlando, FL (Funding: NAEYCE Scholarship)

Quote of the Week

“In teaching others we teach ourselves.”

Proverb

Superintendent

Search for a new leader begins

Former Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Dennis Ray of Northwest Leadership Associates briefed the school board on the process his firm will use to conduct the district's Superintendent Search. Dr. Ray was Superintendent in Walla Walla from 1980 to 1990 and will personally serve as the lead person conducting the search.

Dr. Ray stressed the process will be transparent with plenty of opportunities for input from staff and the community. A survey will be available to all stakeholders later this month with focus group meetings scheduled in October as well.

The position will be posted in November and will close February 1. Preliminary interviews of five to six candidates are expected to be conducted in February. Dr. Ray expects to have three finalists. They will be interviewed in early March. The district hopes to name the new superintendent by mid-March. The new superintendent will assume the duties July 1, 2016.

School board members unanimously approved hiring Dr. Dennis Ray of Northwest Leadership Associates in May.

ThoughtExchange - Join the Conversation

Communications Director Mark Higgins briefed the school board on the Fall 2015 ThoughtExchange community engagement process. This round will focus on quality education.

Parents, staff, students and community members will have an opportunity to participate via this online learning process through Oct. 16. The results will be available in late November. All staff and parents have received an email invitation. Community members and students will have the opportunity to self-register by visiting the district website (www.wwps.org) and clicking on the ThoughtExchange logo. This process is available in English and Spanish and is confidential.

No School - October 8 and 9

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Remember to Vote - November 3
Ballots are mailed out October 15