

Walla Walla Public Schools

# 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | January 19, 2016

## School board approves 2016-2017 calendar School to start August 23



Chris Gardea

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors unanimously approved the 2016-2017 school year calendar. The first day of school is August 23, 2016 and the last day is June 8, 2017. The approved calendar features a two week winter break, Spring Break the first full week in April and a possible school make-up day May 12. Visit the district website for a printable copy of the calendar – [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org).

The district had considered starting school the day after Labor Day per perpetual calendar language developed by the 2011 and 2013 Calendar Committees, but this calendar option would have school getting out June 20 which was too late according to

surveys completed this winter.

“The district and the Walla Walla Valley Education Association agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding for the 2016-2017 school year calendar to approve this one-year option and revisit the perpetual calendar language this summer as part of the collective bargaining process,” said Chris Gardea, Executive Director of Human Resources. “Our leadership team has an important role of ensuring the calendar meets the needs of our educators and this approval represents the collaborative spirit we have developed in Walla Walla.”

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Dec. 15, 2015 school board meeting, executive session and public work session, Dec. 17 public work session and special meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, Jan. 5 and 19 accounts payable and November and December financial reports.

- approved 2016-2017 calendar
- approved STEM grant application

### STEM Grant request . . .

The district is applying for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Pilot Project grant for up to \$4 million from OSPI to help modernize and expand its 53-year-old science classrooms and labs. The current facilities are undersized and outdated. This expansion will allow for increased STEM offerings schoolwide. Community donations exceeding \$100,000 have already been pledged per a grant requirement. A decision from OSPI regarding the district's funding request will be made public in May.

### Enrollment/Budget update . . .

Enrollment remains 150 FTE students above budget projections. Spending is on schedule and the fund balance remains within board target guidelines at \$7.6 million.

### Board Appreciation Month

January is School Board Appreciation Month and a time to recognize the critical role our board members have providing a quality education for all Walla Walla students. Our school board members deeply care about children. These dedicated volunteers base all of their decisions on what is best for our students. Thank you!



Excellence in Every Classroom

**PERSONNEL  
REPORT**

**EMPLOYMENT ...**

**Certificated**

KRISTOPHER BLAND | SPECIAL EDUCATION (TEMP)  
*Lincoln High School*

KAYLIE PIVER | SPECIAL EDUCATION (TEMP)  
*Prospect Point Elementary*

**Classified:**

HENRY ALLEN | PARA-EDUCATOR  
*Walla Walla High School*

SCOTT BRASHEAR | CAMPUS SECURITY  
*Walla Walla High School*

MATTHEW BUCKINGHAM | PARA-EDUCATOR  
*Pioneer Middle School*

JESSIKA CHAPMAN | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)  
*Pioneer Middle School*

SEAN HEALY | PARA-EDUCATOR (TEMP)  
*Lincoln High School*

KATIE HENRY | PARA-EDUCATOR  
*Prospect Point Elementary*

**EMPLOYMENT CONTINUED ...**

JUAN HERNANDEZ | BUS DRIVER  
*SE Washington Transportation Cooperative*

JENNIFER LOPEZ | PARA-EDUCATOR  
*Walla Walla High School*

MARVIN MUSSELMAN | BUS DRIVER  
*SE Washington Transportation Cooperative*

DAVID SPURLOCK | CUSTODIAN  
*Wa-Hi, Green Park, Sharpstein, Prospect Point*

DOUGLAS TASH | BUS DRIVER  
*SE Washington Transportation Cooperative*  
**Coaching**

ARCH MCHIE | HEAD GIRLS' SOFTBALL COACH  
*Walla Walla High School*

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT**

**Administrative**

CONNIE TAYLOR RANDALL | WA-HI - 37.5 YEARS  
- EFFECTIVE DEC. 31, 2016

JUDY GWINN | BUSINESS OFFICE - 32.5 YEARS  
- EFFECTIVE FEB. 29, 2016

**Certificated**

JEANNE SCHMIDT | GARRISON SPECIAL ED - 26 YEARS  
- JEANNE WILL COMPLETE THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

**Classified**

BRAD NELSON | TECHNOLOGY, 3 YEARS

KAYLIE PIVER | LINCOLN HS, 2 YEARS

DAVID SUMPTER | SHARPSTEIN, 27 YEARS

REBECCA VANDEWARK | WA-HI, 4 MONTHS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Classified**

KRISTOPHER BLAND | PARA-EDUCATOR, LINCOLN HS, 2.5 YRS

- For remainder of the 2015-2016 school year

**OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

- William Bialozor and Mark Mebes to attend Junior Olympics Rifle Meet and Army Rifle Championships in Salt Lake City, UT and (Funding: ASB/CTE)
- Chris Bryant and Michael Patterson to attend Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coach's Professional Growth)
- Tina Brennan to attend Rural Principal Fellowship in Baltimore, MD (Funding: Title I/Rural Prin. Fellowship)
- Shelly Phipps, Genie Huntemann and Ruth Triebwasser to attend 2016 National Title I Conference in Houston, TX (Funding: Title I)

**National Board Certified Teachers**

Congratulations to Hollis Erickson (Pioneer MS), Jane Eacker (Lincoln HS), Genie Huntemann (Lincoln HS) and Elisabeth Entrena (Edison) for earning their National Board Certification. The National Board was established as the profession's vehicle for defining and recognizing accomplished teaching. Currently, there are 44 Walla Walla Public Schools teachers who are nationally certified.

**21st Century Program update**

21st CCLC Programs Director Brent Cummings updated the school board on the program which operates at Blue Ridge Elementary, Garrison and Pioneer Middle Schools, Lincoln High School and Walla Walla High School for freshmen only. These programs provide academic enrichment opportunities, with a focus on STEM, during non-school hours. Cummings said most of the nearly 700 students participating in the program live in poverty. He said the program is designed to help students improve grades and test scores, build self-esteem, and resiliency.

**Preschool Parent Outreach update**

Pam Clayton is the coordinator for a new parent outreach program targeting families with preschool children. She started her new position five weeks ago and is busy planning events. Love and Logic and Ready for Kindergarten are the primary programs she is using. Look for more information in the coming weeks and months.