

Walla Walla Public Schools

# 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | September 20, 2016

## Impact of Education *Local community college legend shares message*



Dr. Van Ausdle

After leading Walla Walla Community College for more than 30 years and helping the school earn national acclaim as a recipient of the prestigious Aspen Award, educators take notice when retired President Dr. Steven Van Ausdle shares his message on the importance of educational attainment.

Last night, Dr. Van Ausdle presented his views on education as an economic driver to the school board as the district begins its strategic planning process.

Van Ausdle reported there are skills gaps in America spurring many industry leaders to shop beyond its borders to land the talent needed for today's technology and skills-

reliant careers. Dr. Van Ausdle suggested a need for more investment in education, including infrastructure and programs. He reported in 2014, only 38 percent of Walla Walla County adults hold Associate's or Bachelor's degrees. He recommends a target of 60 percent by 2025. Dr. Van Ausdle also shared information from a study he was involved in several years ago which revealed only 19 out of 100, 9th grade students will earn an Associate's or higher degree.

His closing remarks to the school board encouraged them to set high standards and involve the community in the process.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the September 6, 2016 special board meeting and regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra and co-curricular contracts, September 20 accounts payable and August Financial Report, 2016-2017 district insurance renewal, surplus equipment and materials and Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance.

### Enrollment Update . . .

Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan reported the September enrollment count of 5604 is on target to meet budget projections. This count doesn't include numbers from Running Start and Alternative Education Programs at WWCC which will be calculated next month. October figures typically come in 200 students higher than the September count. The district budget projection is based on 5760 FTE. Cohan cautioned the board not to expect an enrollment windfall like last year, which provided additional district revenue.

### Superintendent's Patron Tour . . .

Join Superintendent Wade Smith for a behind the scenes look at district schools and an update on critical issues facing the school district.

- Wednesday, Oct. 19 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
- SEA-TECH, Pioneer, Sharpstein

## Board of Directors book study features work of Dr. Richard Dufour

School board members and Superintendent Wade Smith are conducting a book study of Richard DuFour's (EdD) most recent book *In Praise of American Educators*. This study is expected to set the stage for the school board's discussion surrounding the first phase of the strategic planning process which focuses on the vision, mission and values of the district. Superintendent Smith is organizing various book studies, article reviews and activities in support of the strategic planning process. Dr. DuFour was a public school educator for thirty-four years, serving as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. He received Illinois' highest award as both a principal and superintendent and is now a prolific author and sought-after consultant.



Dr. Dufour

Excellence in Every Classroom

PERSONNEL  
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

**Classified:**

- TERESA BENITEZ | BR PRESCHOOL (PARA)
- ANA DIAZ | SHARPSTEIN (PARA - TEMP)
- NANCY MUNOZ | BR PRESCHOOL (FAMILY ADVOCATE)
- IRIS SALAZAR | BR PRESCHOOL (PARA)

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT

**Classified**

- LINDA LEIGHTY | TEACHING & LEARNING - 2.5 YEARS
- TYLER PESTER | TRANSPORTATION - NO SHOW

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

**Classified**

- JAZMIN LOPEZ | WA-HI (4.5 YEARS)
- January to April to complete student teaching practicum

OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

- Kerri Coffman, Erin Dorso, Mindy Meyer, Casey Monahan, Angelica Pedroza, and Libby Thompson to attend Learning Forward Annual Conference in Vancouver, BC (Funding: WATPL Grant)
- Chris Gardea and Christy Krutulis to attend PLC at Work Institute in Jacksonville, FL (Funding: HR and TL travel)
- Michelle Higgins to attend ASCD Empower 2017 Conference in Anaheim, CA (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant and Professional Development)

Quote of the Week

“We should seek to be fellow students with the pupil, and should learn of, as well as with him, if we would be most helpful to him.”

Henry David Thoreau

## Bilingual Committee

### Board approves membership

**Committee’s notes and highlights posted on district webpage**

Last week, Superintendent Wade Smith, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Christy Krutulis and Coordinator of Bilingual Programs Angelica Pedroza facilitated a discussion with the Bilingual Education Recommendation Committee. Presentations and supporting materials from committee meetings are posted on the district webpage under the Bilingual Programs tab. The school board has asked the committee to provide recommendations by February 2017. Last night, the Board of Directors approved the following members to serve on the Bilingual Education Recommendation Committee.

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Yazmin Bahena (Teacher)          | Lisa Braddock (Teacher)             |
| Margarita Carbajal (Parent)      | Dr. Jennifer Cowgill (Principal)    |
| Karina Cummins (Parent)          | Diana Evenson (Director)            |
| Mira Gobel (Principal)           | Sergio Hernandez (Coordinator)      |
| Julie Hill (Teacher)             | Christopher Jenkins (Parent)        |
| Kim Kelsay (Teacher)             | Carey Knifong (Teacher)             |
| Christy Krutulis (Exe. Director) | Gina McDonnell (Teacher)            |
| Susan Nakonieczny (Teacher)      | Angie Pedroza (Coordinator)         |
| Eva Quintero de Horn (Parent)    | Ben Remington (Parent)              |
| Virginia Romfh (Parent)          | Wade Smith (Superintendent)         |
| Alasdair Stewart (Parent)        | Jean Tobin (Teacher)                |
| Andrea Valencia Garcia (Teacher) | Catherine Veninga (Parent)          |
| Gina Yonts (Principal)           | Chris Gardea (Asst. Superintendent) |
| Ruth Ladderud (Board Member)     | Cindy Meyer (Board Member)          |
| Susie Golden (Admin Support)     |                                     |

**Upcoming Calendar Notes:**

- Oct. 7 - No School (Staff Professional Day)
- Oct. 13-14 - No School (Parent/Teacher Conferences)

**Kindergarten preparedness classes**

Family Involvement and Learning Assistance Coordinator Pam Clayton is proud to announce this year’s kindergarten preparation classes and support.

Visit the district website to view this year’s offerings:

1. [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)
2. Click on Teaching and Learning page (<http://www.wwps.org/departments/curriculum>)
3. Click on Family and Community Involvement page (<http://www.wwps.org/departments/curriculum/family-engagement>)

