

# Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | October 3, 2017

## Data Mining

*School board reviews grades 3-8*

*Smarter Balanced and ACT results*



Wade Smith

Superintendent Wade Smith provided the school board a comprehensive grades 3-8 Smarter Balanced Assessment and high school ACT performance review from last school year's data. Assessment results reported last night by Superintendent Smith reveal the district continues to lag behind state averages in both English Language Arts and math. Assessment Director Pete Peterson joined Superintendent Smith in presenting the data to school board members.

"While we are seeing some grade level and subject area success, as a system, our overall assessment results can be described as trending down while the state is maintaining or trending up," said Peterson. "The district has invested \$500,000 in new curriculum and i-Ready as a systemic tool and instructional aid. We have the staff and leadership in the district to move our numbers in a more positive direction."

Superintendent Smith also shared the Smarter Balanced assessments are taken online and designed for students to demonstrate they can solve problems and utilize critical thinking skills. Smarter Balance exam results help indicate if students are college and career ready, he added. All Walla Walla Public Schools seniors have the opportunity to take the ACT. This exam measures college readiness benchmarks in English, math, reading and science. The district has set an average ACT score goal of 22 by 2021-2022. Currently the district's high school seniors' ACT average score is 19.3.

Superintendent Smith says the district is taking steps to improve academic achievement. He reported Professional Learning Communities are forming across the district to enhance instructional practices, review data points and strategize ways to further engage students in their learning. He also noted the new i-Ready assessment tool being introduced this year is aligned to Common Core Standards.

Strategic Plan focus areas like chronic absenteeism, behavioral support and student engagement and outreach will also have a positive impact on learning.



*Walla Walla Public Schools began taking Smarter Balanced assessments in 2014-15. The assessments are linked to the state's adopted learning standards which are derived from the national Common Core Standards.*

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the September 19, 2017 regular business meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra and co-curricular contracts, and October 3 accounts payable and September payroll.

### No School Days . . .

- October 6 (Fall Staff Collaboration Day)
- October 12 & 13 (Conferences)

### Safe Schools Meeting . . .

The district conducted its Fall Safe and Civil Schools meeting with area first-responders and district administrators.

Mark Thompson discussed the district's "We all belong here" campaign. This effort supports Goal 4 of the new Strategic Plan for Safe and Engaging Schools which helps support an inclusive school culture.

New emergency procedures posters are being developed for each classroom. The district is moving away from "Yellow Lockdown" to "Secure Building/Classroom" terminology. There will only be one lockdown command going forward. This will only be used if there is imminent danger on campus.

Angie Gardea remains the district's leader in Crisis Recovery and grief support.

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

PERSONNEL  
REPORT

**EMPLOYMENT ...**

**Certificated:**

NONE TO REPORT

**Classified:**

MICHAEL LEMKE | GROUNDS WORKER (FACILITIES)

ARIANA VALVERDE | PARA-ED (PIONEER MS)

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...**

**Certificated:**

NONE TO REPORT

**Classified:**

NONE TO REPORT

**Quote of the Week**

“The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work.”

Aristotle



**Adopt-a-Blue Devil**

*United Way program to support students*

This year when United Way of Walla Walla reaches out for donations in support of its 2017-2018 Annual Fundraising Campaign, community members will have an opportunity to check the new Adopt-a-Blue Devil program box to help support students in financial need participate fully in school activities. This exciting new program is a collaboration between Walla Walla Public Schools and United Way of Walla Walla.

“Whether a student is lacking money to pay for a pair of cleats, rent a band instrument, purchase a graduation cap and gown, or pay dues to join a school club/activity, the newly-created Adopt-a-Blue Devil Program is here to help,” said Superintendent Wade Smith. “One of our four strategic district goals involves engaging students in our academic, athletic, and co-curricular programs. Unfortunately, many of our students lack the financial resources nowadays to participate. This program will serve instrumental in ensuring that no willing student in Walla Walla is turned away due to their family’s limited financial capacity.”

Despite efforts to eliminate barriers and fees, Smith reports there are still significant costs related to other programming and student participation that limit involvement in school activities. This program is designed to help.

“Last school year the district’s employee sponsored United Way campaign program generated \$14,000 district-wide through payroll deduction,” said United Way CEO Christy Lieuallen. “We are hoping that this year, with the Adopt-a-Blue Devil Program and additional support from other outside entities, we will be able to double that amount.”

**Staff Adopt-a-Blue Devil Donation Link:**

<http://www.unitedwayww.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=10>

**Patron Tour next month**

Staff, please share the following message with family, friends and parents. We hope to get a group of at least 25 community members.

**Program Message:**

Join Superintendent Wade Smith for a tour of three schools and an update on the district’s Facilities Improvement Planning process, academic achievement goals and ways the district is reaching out to engage students in school activities. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Superintendent Smith and learn more about the local schools.

- Wednesday, Nov. 15 / 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch provided)
- RSVP by Thursday, Nov. 9 -- [sgolden@wwps.org](mailto:sgolden@wwps.org) / 526-6715

**Tour Sites:**

- Pioneer Middle School
- Walla Walla High School
- Lincoln High School

**Facilities Survey open until Oct. 11**

The Community Facilities Task Force survey remains open through Oct. 11. Renovations of Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School, and Pioneer Middle School top the needs list. We need staff input. Please share your thoughts.

**Link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GC6ZJY7>