

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

July 21, 2020

Safe Return to School

Preliminary plans for fall reopening include AM/PM option or all online

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith shared options for families as planning for safely reopening schools continues. He announced the district is seeking input from parents regarding which educational model best meets their families' needs as the district continues developing plans to safely and effectively reopen schools Sept. 8.

The 6-foot social distancing state mandate for all schools limits Walla Walla Public Schools' ability to serve its entire school population at the same time.

"If circumstances surrounding the virus allow the school district to safely provide in-school instruction in the fall, the district will be implementing an AM/PM model based on prior parent and stakeholder feedback," said Superintendent Smith. "Under this program, students attend approximately half their student day in-person on campus, Monday thru Friday, and half their day in a formal distance learning format from home."

He went on to say if by mid-August it is deemed not safe to reopen schools in September, the district will start off with Distance Learning 2.0 Contingency. Under this scenario, students will receive approximately half of their instruction in a synchronous online setting with their classroom teacher(s) [e.g. daily, scheduled classroom instruction over videoconferencing from their teacher(s)]. Students will complete their remaining instruction in a distance learning format from home. This will ensure an optimal learning experience while allowing the district the ability to efficiently transition to the AM/PM in-person model as soon as it is safe to do so.



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"Over the last three months, staff, parents and students have been deeply engaged in helping the school district develop its safe return to school plans."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

Additionally, for those who are seeking a 100 percent digital online program regardless, the district is able to offer services through its new Walla Walla Online School.

This week the district launched another survey to seek parent requests for fall student enrollment. Responses are due by Sunday, July 26.

Superintendent Smith said safety and the wellbeing of staff, students and visitors is at the core of all decisions.

"Our district is following guidance from local, state and national health experts in developing comprehensive cleaning, screening, and protection protocols to ensure the safest learning experience possible," said Smith. "Routine classroom cleaning between AM/PM shifts and class periods, deep cleaning measures, hand sanitization supplies readily available, frequent handwashing practices and facility modifications have all been implemented to support the health and wellbeing of all."

Visit www.wwps.org and select the Safely Reopening Schools link at the top of the page for additional information.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the June 16, 2020 regular business meeting and July 13 special meeting, personnel report, July 7 & 21 accounts payable and June payroll, June financial report, 2020-21 out-of-state tuition, 2020-21 dairy bid renewal, excused absence for Director Mrs. Ladderud, Head Start grant equipment purchase, Resolution #10-2020 Budget Extension, Resolution #11-2020 Wa-Hi new-in-lieu state match, Resolution #12-2020 Pioneer MS intent to construct project, Resolution #13-2020 Pioneer MS 5-year use/30-year life, Pioneer MS constructability report, Resolution #14-2020 Pioneer MS replacement (N/L) and modernization project intent to award, Resolution #15-2020 Wa-Hi intent to construct project, Resolution #16-2020 Wa-Hi 5-year use/30-year life, Wa-Hi constructability report, Resolution #17-2020 replacement (N/L) and modernization project intent to award and sunset of Resolution #04-2020 emergency - suspension of policy.

POLICY FIRST READING »

2255 - ALE courses

POLICY APPROVAL »

3225 - School Based Threat Assessment
3424 - Opioid Related Overdose Reversal
3510 - Associated Student Bodies
4210 - Regulation of Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
4215 - Use of Tobacco, Nicotine Products and Delivery Devices
4314 - Notif. of Threats of Violence/Harm
6225 - Use of Electronic Signature
6700 - Nutrition, Health & Physical Ed

EMPLOYMENT . . .**Administrative:**

SERGIO RAZO | DIR OF TECH & IT, DISTRICT OFFICE

Certificated:

GERALD 'CHIP' AMBLER | 5TH GRADE, BERNEY

NICOLE HYATT | SPECIAL EDUCATION, SHARPSTEIN

CAROLYN PEMBERTON | MATH/STUDENT SUCCESS, WA-HI

NICHOLAS PRASAD | SCIENCE, GARRISON MS

CASEY RICHARDS | SITE CRD, WW CHILDREN & FAMILIES

GUADALUPE SANCHEZ | 5TH GRADE, BERNEY

HEIDI WILSON | KINDERGARTEN, SHARPSTEIN

ZOE WHITE | LANG ARTS (TEMP), GARRISON MS

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS**Administrative:**

FORREST BAKER | DIR OF TECHNOLOGY, 7 YEARS

Certificated:

JULIE COX | WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 10 YEARS

MICHAEL JONES | PIONEER MS, 30 YEARS

Classified:

KATHY GIFFORD | BUSINESS OFFICE, 1 WEEK

SERGIO HERNANDEZ | DISTRICT OFFICE, 6 YEARS

MARCOS MEDINA | 21 CEN (EDISON), 3 YEARS

MIRIAH STARR | WA-HI, 2 YEARS

School Resource Officer program review

School board members received a report from Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and Walla Walla High School Principal Ron Higgins on the district's relationship with Walla Walla County for a School Resource Officer. The topic of school resource officers began to surface across the country in June prompting School Board President Sam Wells to request more information on the program. The district's School Resource Officer, a Walla Walla County Sheriff's Deputy, is stationed at Wa-Hi and primarily funded by Walla Walla Public Schools.

Last night's report included peer-reviewed research related to SRO's in schools, the local history of the program, current relationship with WW County Sheriff's Department, policies related to law enforcement and recent surveys related to the perception surrounding school safety.

The School Resource Officer program began in 2001 at Walla Walla High School with a partnership with Walla Walla County. The district also contracted with the City of Walla Walla Police Department from 2001-2015 for a school resource officer to provide support at nine campuses within city limits. This agreement ended after the city was unable to staff the position due to officer shortages. Walla Walla County also briefly suspended its relationship with the district during the 2015-2016 school year due to a shortage of deputies. The position was staffed the following year and continues today. The School Resource Officer supports traffic safety near the campus, emergency response calls, Incident Command Team functions during a crisis, investigations and safety support for after-school events. Annual survey results from staff, students and parents overwhelmingly reveal they feel safe on campus. No action was taken.

July Bond Update*Walla Walla High School*

- Electricians and plumbers install utilities.
- Casework installation underway.
- The exterior soffits and gutters installed.
- Tile, drywall, acoustical ceilings and paint installed.
- Campuswide hydronic, water, sewer, electrical conduit and other utilities installed underground.
- Wenaha Group in cooperation with Jackson conducted a constructability review of the 90% progress drawings for the overall project.
- AWI completed the permit drawings and submitted to the County and other entities for the necessary permits.
- All necessary letters and documentation for state match consideration submitted.

Pioneer Middle School

- Royse Hydroseeding prepared site for modular classrooms and bathroom trailer.
- Royse also completed the McCabe road improvements required by the City of Walla Walla.
- Nelson Construction completed their site work.
- Nelson Construction completed pouring all of the footings and the slab on grade for the multipurpose structure. Multipurpose structure now in place.
- Wenaha Group conducted a constructability review of the 90% progress drawings for the project.
- AWI completed the permit drawings and submitted to the County and other entities for permits.
- All necessary letters and documentation were assembled and submitted for State matching funds.

Blue Ridge Elementary

- Wellens General Contractors continued to work on finishing the re-roofing activities.
- The storm water drainage systems were completed including the parking lot crossing and pouring back the removed pavement sections.
- Wellens initiated the installation of the revised irrigation systems.
- The building was pressure washed and soffits were repaired in preparation for painting of the entire building.
- Temporary fencing was removed as site work has been completed and heavy equipment has been removed from the site.

See More Bond Updates
wwps.org/bond