

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

September 1, 2020

COVID BUDGET IMPACT

District takes measures to reduce costs following revenue shortfalls

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported during last night's school board study meeting the district is addressing an anticipated \$4.3M budget shortfall resulting from the impact of COVID-19 in two phases. The global pandemic and resulting campus closures are affecting many district funding streams, including an approximate 200 student enrollment dip, loss of transportation program dollars, and other revenue streams tied to enrollment such as Career and Technical Education, Special Education, local effort assistance and others.

The loss of student enrollment is primarily due to a significant number of families who have not enrolled their kindergarten students for this fall. Under normal conditions, the district would expect to welcome around 450 KG students. Current enrollment sits at 335. Executive Director for Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulis strongly encourages parents to enroll their kindergarteners this fall.

"The age appropriate program will provide all KG students the necessary social/emotional and academic experiences, allowing for a successful transition to in-person instruction as soon as viral conditions allow," said Krutulis.

Phase One of the budget savings plan trims \$2.6M in expenses by reducing staff through attrition. Additionally, due to distance learning, savings have been recaptured through less need for substitutes, field trips and other transportation savings, and a shortened athletic season due to WIAA directives.

"Thankfully, seeing hints of this coming late last spring, I directed Human Resources to freeze all non-essential hiring when vacancies arose," said Superintendent Smith.



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"While it is true that WWPS is facing similar financial challenges as most districts across the state, what I can attest is not the same is the manner by which we come together, band together and problem solve together, in order to overcome these obstacles."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

"As a result of this proactive stance, we have already saved \$1.5M in salary/benefits this year by not replacing 26 classified, certificated, administrative and central office staff."

Phase Two trims expenses by \$1.7M primarily through temporary classified staff layoffs, furloughs and state incentive programs. Certificated teachers and administrative employees are protected from layoffs this late into the year by state law.

Superintendent Smith and his team worked closely with the Public School Employees bargaining group to limit the impact on staff by continuing to offer benefits to employees and maximizing the state's Shared Work Program.

The district's proactive approach to budgeting has put the district in line to meet the \$4.3M loss.

"We will get through this and times will get better," said Superintendent Smith. "Hope is on the horizon."

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the August 18, 2020 regular business meeting, personnel report, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, September 1 accounts payable and August payroll, Minimum Basic Education requirement compliance and WA State School Directors' Association Board of Distinction application.

KINDERGARTEN UPDATE »

- School for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will begin on Sept. 14 (Remotely).
- Individual parent-teacher-student conferences will be scheduled during the week of Sept. 8-11. Parents will have an opportunity to come to their child's school for an in-person conference and meet their child's teacher. In addition, kindergarten screening will take place and families will receive technology training and pick up Chromebooks and classroom supplies/materials. You will be contacted soon by your child's school to schedule your appointment.
- Safety protocols will be in place to ensure a safe visit.

KINDERGARTEN VIDEO »

Director of the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families Samantha Bowen released a video discussing Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration. She addresses the importance of getting students enrolled in WWPS programs and how distance learning works. Our children can't wait, according to Bowen as she discusses the importance of enrolling your 4- or 5-year-old in school this year. Visit the district website to see the video.

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .

Classified:

ROSA CORONADO | LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL, 25 YRS

ALEXIS VEZINA | GREEN PARK, 4 YRS

ALI WALKER | TEACHING AND LEARNING, 4 YRS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Classified:

DAKOTAH FRYATT | WA-HI, 3 YEARS

- SEPT-DEC 2020 TO COMPLETE STUDENT TEACHING

JOSEPH NORBY | BERNEY, 4 YEARS

- FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

LAYOFF (voluntary and/or ineligible for furlough)

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Adams, Scott	Bus Driver	Transportation
Bray, Janice	Nutrition Services	Sharpstein
Butler, Elizabeth	Nutrition Services	Wa-Hi
Cosgrove, Kay	Para-Educator	Transportation
Duncan, Kody	Bus Driver	Transportation
Hardesty, David	Bus Driver	Transportation
Hyde, Suzanne	Nutrition Services Para-Educator	Wa-Hi Transportation
Jara, Rogelio	Bus Driver	Transportation
Johnson, Mary	Para-Educator	Transportation
Mann, Kimberly	Nutrition Services	Edison
Mina-Nelson, Menell	Para-Educator	Berney
Noffsinger, Jamie	Bus Driver	Transportation
Perez, Dulce	Nutrition Services	Prospect Point
Swagger, Jenny	Nutrition Services	Garrison
Tompkins, Nancy	Para-Educator	Transportation
White, Shannon	Nutrition Services	Wa-Hi

Quote of the Week

"Education is the transmission of civilization."

Will Durant

Technology Practice "Dry Run"

- What:** Technology "Dry Run" Event for all 1st-12th grade students
- When:** Thursday, September 3 at the specified times below
- Why:** To make sure all of your technology is working correctly prior to the first day of classes on September 8
- Who:** All 1st-12th grade students (kindergarten families will gain access during parent-teacher conferences)

Instructions:

- Elementary Students: Log into your teacher's Google Classroom at the specified time and follow instructions to connect with your teacher live.
- 1st-2nd Grade: 8 a.m. / 3rd-5th Grade: 9:30 a.m.
- Secondary Students (grades 6-12): Log into your 1st period teacher's Google Classroom at 9 a.m. and follow instructions to connect with your teacher live.
- Walla Walla Online: Check your district email account for detailed instructions prior to September 3.

Technical Support/Help:

- First, contact your school and/or classroom teacher via phone.
- Second, you can contact our technology helpdesk at 509-527-3010 or send an email to helpdesk@wwps.org. Spanish speakers, please call 509-526-6787.

Additional Information

Visit the district's website: <https://www.wwps.org/safely-reopening-schools/>

How-To Video Series

Walla Walla Public Schools is producing a series of videos for parents and students to help navigate the Distance Learning program. Carrie LaRoy of the Teaching and Learning Department is leading the project to create short, how-to videos to help students and families.

These fun and easy to understand videos will be posted on the district's website and shared on social media. The district has five videos slated for production prior to the first day of school. Marilyn Melgoza is on camera for the Spanish language videos.

For video ideas or questions, please contact:

- Carrie LaRoy, Assessment & Education Technology Coordinator
- claroy@wwps.org
- 509.526.6786

How-To Video Series Website:

<https://www.wwps.org/safely-reopening-schools/how-to-video-series>

#wecandothis