

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

February 16, 2021

Winter iReady Update

Walla Walla students and staff efforts lessen impact of COVID-19 pandemic

Last night Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea provided an overview of iReady Diagnostic assessment data from this year's preliminary results. Students in grades K-8 are being assessed in reading and math during the Jan. 19 through Feb. 19 testing window. Elementary students are taking the exams in person, while middle school students are completing them remotely.

iReady is a comprehensive assessment and instruction program which enables educators to confidently determine each student's on-grade level proficiency based on state and national standards.

Gardea compared Walla Walla Public Schools' data from winter 2020 to winter 2021 as it relates to local historical norms and national performance. He also separated data from subgroups to get a better understanding of how students across the district performed.

He said the results show promise and areas for improvement. In reading, students on-grade level or above met or exceeded the previous year in grades K-1st and 4th-8th. Several grade levels saw a reduction in scoring 2 or 3 grade levels below standards. In math, students in grades kindergarten through 4th grade and 6th-8th outperformed



Chris Gardea
Asst. Superintendent

"This diagnostic assessment is administered three times a year. It provides instant information allowing our team to track progress and target assistance."

Chris Gardea
Assistant Superintendent

last year's scores. The data revealed Hispanic and economically disadvantaged students are less likely to be on track to meet grade level standards. This year the number of students three or more grade levels behind in reading and math increased. However, compared to national statistics, Walla Walla students fared better in several grade levels.

"Our staff and students deserve an incredible amount of credit for their performance during the pandemic," said Gardea. "Our students are out performing several grade levels when compared nationally during this unprecedented time."

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from Feb. 2 regular study meeting and executive session and minutes from the Feb. 11 special meetings and board retreat, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, Feb. 16 accounts payable and January financial report.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE »

Lobbyist Marie Sullivan provided a legislative update.

ENROLLMENT REPORT »

February enrollment dipped another 8 FTE to 5466. This represents a loss of 106 FTE since October. This local trend follows a statewide dip in enrollment related to the pandemic.

BUDGET UPDATE »

The district continues its budget planning process. Budget discussions include addressing enrollment declines and the accompanying loss of revenue. Board members will approve a budget in August.

HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE »

Last night, Wa-Hi student representative Jaden Bergevin provided an update on ASB activities.

District planning to address learning loss

Pandemic has impacted achievement across all grade levels

Walla Walla Public Schools, like school districts across the state, is in-line to receive federal funds to address learning loss linked to the pandemic.

Last night school board members discussed ideas for summer extended learning and activities programs. Board members said they are willing to think

outside the box to get results and gave Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith the green light to begin outreach and planning efforts. Superintendent Smith says a lot of work remains, including engaging staff, students and parents in order to develop programs to meet student learning needs.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Certificated:

MARIA ESPINOSA ARTEAGA | ELEM DUAL (21-22), TBD

Classified:

LEIDY MARTINEZ | BILINGUAL PARA-ED, WA-HI

NICOLE ORIAH | PARA-ED (TEMP), WWCCF

MIREYA PEREZ | BUS ASST, TRANSPORTATION

MILTON ROGERS | BUS ASST, TRANSPORTATION

LIZETH SAUCEDO | BIL PARA-ED (TEMP), EDISON

TRACY WALMSLEY | PARA-ED (TEMP), GREEN PARK

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...

Classified:

ALYSON MAGNAGHI | LINCOLN HS, 16 YRS

NANCY TOMPKINS | TRANSPORTATION, 1 YR

ROSALVA VAZQUEZ | GREEN PARK, 6 YRS

Quote of the Week

"You can never be overdressed or overeducated."

Oscar Wilde

COVID Update

Local infection numbers continue to decline

Walla Walla County COVID-19 case counts continue to recede. The district is in its Yellow Stage allowing middle school students to return to campus this week.

Keep up the good work Walla Walla. Mask up, social distance and limit gatherings!



WALLA WALLA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health
COVID-19 Disease Activity Report
February 15, 2021

Risk Key:			January 30, 2021 to February 12, 2021						
High	>350cases/100K/14days								
Medium	50-350 cases/100K/14days								
Low	<50 cases/100K/14days								
			14 Day Date Range						
Geographic Area	Population	Case Cutoffs	1/9 to 1/22/21	1/13 to 1/26/21	1/16 to 1/29/21	1/19 to 2/1/21	1/23 to 2/5/21	1/27 to 2/9/21	1/30 to 2/12/21
Walla Walla Co.	62,580	220[219-31]30	458	348	314	278	224	218	209
Walla Walla	44,650	157[156-22]21	191	166	160	148	129	120	114
College Place	9,780	34[33-4]3	54	43	40	45	47	48	47
Waitsburg	1,240	4[3-1]0	3	2	0	1	2	2	2
Prescott	330	2[1]0	14	9	2	6	9	21	22
Touchet	407	2[1]0	13	9	9	6	2	5	5
Burbank	3378	11[10-1]0	14	16	14	15	12	7	13
Dixie	495	2[1]0	3	2	4	2	2	2	1
WA St. Penitentiary	2300	NA	166	101	85	55	21	13	5

Bond Update (February 2021)

Walla Walla High School

Jackson Contractor Group is doing construction on every building on campus except the New Science Building and the Academic Building.

- Building 1: The roofing work was completed.
- Building 2: HVAC, plumbing, and electrical work continued. Work was initiated to start hanging gypsum wallboard. The new roof dormer features were constructed. New large HVAC mechanical equipment was installed with use of a mobile crane. Work on replacing the windows, doors, and storefronts began as well.
- Building 3: Demolition began inside the existing structure in order to facilitate the remodeling. New utility services were brought to the building addition. The building addition had the foundation trenches dug and prepared for new services and concrete which will be poured soon.
- Building 4: Remodeling of the south portion continued with installation of plumbing, HVAC, IT, and electrical components.
- Building 6: The design team worked on making some additional design changes based on district desires. In addition, the underslab utilities were installed, the subgrade was prepared, and is slab is ready to be poured at the new building segment.
- Building 7: Steel erection was completed and roof framing has been started.
- The design team worked with Jackson to complete and return submittals and answer construction question as they arise in order to facilitate a project that is able to keep up with the schedule.

Pioneer Middle School

- The gym was filled with soil in order to bring the new grade up to the surrounding grade. In addition, grading activities continued in preparation for new foundations and slab on grade.
- The foundations and stem walls were poured at the north side of the commons addition.
- HVAC and electrical work continued in the south wing. Also, the shear walls and new flooring were continued in this wing based on bringing the existing structure up to current codes
- Plumbing of the new locker rooms, the new kitchen, and the new storm water systems were largely completed below grade.
- The design team worked with Jackson to complete and return submittals and answer construction question as they arise in order to facilitate a project and stay on schedule.

Lincoln High School

- Construction documents (including drawings) have been submitted for review and permit approval.