

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

April 20, 2021

Blue Stage begins April 26

Elementary and middle school students return to full-time, in-person learning

Walla Walla Public Schools will transition to the Blue Stage of its Safely Reopening Schools plan Monday, April 26 marking the return to full-time, in-person instruction for elementary and middle school students. High school students will remain in the AM/PM hybrid schedule for the remainder of the school year.

Last night, Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith briefed school board members on the steps in place to ensure a smooth transition to the Blue Stage.

Facilities and Operations Director Mike Kay led an audit of district classrooms to ensure the classrooms were set up to accommodate the new CDC 3' social distancing standard.

Transportation Director John Griffith has reconfigured bus routes and schedules as the district adjusts to the Blue Stage. Griffith is communicating the new bus route information to families this week.

Nutrition Services Director Pamela



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

Milleson is prepared for meal services under the Blue Stage guidelines and custodians are ramped up for welcoming the additional students. Middle School sports also resume in the Blue Stage.

"Schools have been busy communicating and coordinating with families this week via flyers being sent home with elementary students, mailings for middle school students, and SchoolMessenger calls," said Superintendent Smith.

The district will return to pre-pandemic traditional school start/end times.

Blue Stage School Hours:

- Elementary: 8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.
Wednesday Early Release – 1:40 p.m.
- Middle School: 8:50 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday Early Release – 2:30 p.m.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from March 16 regular business meeting and March 30 special meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, non-athletic extra & co-curricular contracts, issuance of contracts & notifications of reasonable assurance, April 6 & 20 accounts payable and March payroll, March Financial Report, surplus equipment and materials, Resolution #02-2021 - Emergency Waiver of High School Graduation credits and excused absence for Director Ruth Ladderud.

ENROLLMENT »

Enrollment figures for April are up slightly as more in-person learning is offered. Currently there are 5467 FTE enrolled, up 3 FTE since March.

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD »

Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor shared the February financial dashboard report with the school board. Revenues for the month are on target with projections while expenditures are up slightly due to purchases of maintenance equipment ahead of schedule as a result of the pandemic. The district's ending fund balance is currently 7.9 percent, within the board policy of a 6-8% reserve.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK »

Superintendent Smith and school board members honored teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week May 3-7. Although the celebration is a few weeks away, there is not another school board business meeting until after the recognition week. Superintendent Smith said our teachers continue to thrive despite the pandemic and he is so proud of their efforts to develop relationships with students and families.

Parents/Guardians honored for Volunteer service

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Typically the school district honors individual volunteers who have made significant contributions and service to the staff and students of Walla Walla Public Schools through the Art Regier Volunteer of the Year Award.

This year COVID restrictions have greatly impacted the ability of volunteers to enter schools and directly work with students. In the spirit of "Grandpa Art" Regier, a retiree who devoted years of service to elementary schools in Walla Walla and epitomized the spirit of volunteerism in education, the school district would like to honor parents, guardians and families this year for their tireless dedication and support of their children during the pandemic.

"Like Regier, our parents and families have shown exceptional service and contributions to the children of Walla Walla Public Schools," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "Their care, compassion and empathy have helped Walla Walla Public Schools students to continue receiving a quality education during these unprecedented times. I want to thank all of our parents, guardians and families for partnering with the school district to ensure our students remain on track to become Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Certificated:

CHANTELL LOPEZ | BIL MUSIC, 2021-22 EDISON

Classified:

MARGRET AQUINO | BIL SEC, WW ONLINE/OPPORT
 JARRETH BINGMAN | TECH SPEC, DISTRICT OFFICE
 NADIA CHAVEZ-GARCIA | BIL ASST SECRETARY/
 RECEPTIONIST, WW ONLINE/OPPORTUNITY
 LESLIE ECHTENKAMP | BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION
 IAN MCCLENNY | CUSTODIAN, DISTRICTWIDE
 CARLOS MONTALVO | BIL PARA-ED, PIONEER MS
 CECILIA SOLIS AVELAR | BIL PARA-ED, EQUITY/DUAL
 MAYRA VARGAS RODRIQUEZ | ASST TEACHER/PARA-
 ED, WWCCF

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .

Certificated:

MCKENZIE BOSTWICK | SHARPSTEIN, 3 YRS
 MEGAN STADNIK | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 3 YRS

Classified:

JUANITA BUTLER | PROSPECT POINT, 36 YRS
 GINA COX | PROSPECT POINT, 30 YRS
 JORGE GALLAGA | TECHNOLOGY, 5 YRS
 TONI GROFF | BERNEY, 22 YRS
 JESSELYN HODGSON | HEAD START, 3 YRS
 SHERRY ORCHARD | GARRISON, 19 YRS
 - SHERRY IS ON A LEAVE OF ABSENCE MARCH-JUNE 2021
 DULCE PEREZ | PROSPECT POINT, 1 YR
 SERGIO RAZO | TECHNOLOGY, 1 YR
 DAVID SPURLOCK | LINCOLN HS, 5 YRS

National Board Certification

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Choir Teacher Colleen Hatch and Prospect Point Kindergarten Teacher Amy Heinzman for earning their National Board Certification. To become a Board-certified teacher, eligible candidates must demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills, and practice in their individual certificate area by completing four components: three portfolio entries and a computer-based assessment.

Summer Sol - "It's a Vibe"

Summer program features Math & Reading focus with hands-on activities

Last night, Director of Accelerated Learning and Support Brent Cummings updated school board members on the new Summer Sol program being offered this summer to students at all grade levels. This federally funded program is designed to address learning loss and social emotional distress associated with the pandemic. Cummings said Summer Sol will utilize a best practice 3-tiered model to support student needs during the two, four-week sessions (June 21-July 16 & July 19-Aug. 13) being offered this summer. Students below grade level in K-12 will be recruited to attend one of the two sessions for targeted accelerated learning focusing on math and reading. All students will be eligible to attend both sessions of the mid-day enrichment element of the program featuring hands-on, experiential activities. Summer Sol participants will receive city pool passes and have access to YMCA and Parks & Rec programming during the afternoon hours. More: summersol.org



Bond Program Rolls On!

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith shared the March 2021 bond update report. Contractors continue to make progress on bond projects. All of the projects are on schedule and on budget. See the full report at: wwps.org/bond

