

# 10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

May 4, 2021

## Legislative Update

*Federal funds help stabilize financial impact of pandemic; new requirements for schools*

Last night Legislative Consultant Marie Sullivan provided a 2021 Legislative Session wrap-up to school board members. Legislators had a \$4 billion increase in funding to utilize for this year's budget session, largely due to federal pandemic relief dollars.

Legislators used these funds to help school districts stabilize funding for 2020-21 due to transportation loss and enrollment declines. Walla Walla Public Schools lost more than \$2 million dollars due to a dip in enrollment this year, primarily at the kindergarten level. Walla Walla Public Schools received federal funds to support programs aimed at helping students' missed learning opportunities associated with the pandemic. The district is developing a comprehensive plan to utilize these funds over several school years.

The Walla Walla Center for Children and Families received \$55,000 through a state grant. District leaders also continued their collaborative relationship with 16th District Legislators this session by meeting with them regularly.

Sullivan also reviewed the long list of new



**Dr. Wade Smith**  
Superintendent

requirements for school districts from lead testing and professional development to website requirements and school resource officer training.

### How Funding Policies Impact WWPS:

- Additional transportation funding for 2020-21 school year.
- ESSER I and ESSER III funds not counted in the formulas to stabilize enrollment.
- Enrollment stabilized for 2020-21 school year for general education, special education, transitional bilingual, CTE/skill centers, dropout re-engagement – not LAP
- Enrichment levy collections were stabilized.
- Walla Walla Center for Children & Families has a \$55,000 grant, available after July 1 for facilities improvements.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED »

Minutes from April 20 regular business meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, May 4 accounts payable and April payroll, and Resolution 03-2021 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2021-2022.

### BUDGET PLANNING »

The district is still awaiting financial tools from OSPI to continue developing the 2021-22 budget prior to its approval in August.

### CURRICULUM ADOPTION »

School board members authorized the Teaching and Learning Department to begin ordering materials for the grades 6-12 World Language curriculum adoption to ensure they are on site for training and review before the 2021-2022 school year. Board members will formally adopt the materials at the May 18 business meeting.

### PANDEMIC RECOVERY PLAN »

Last night the school board deeply explored ways to support students and staff over the coming years as a result of the pandemic by utilizing federal funds targeted for schools across the nation to support these efforts. Late last month, OSPI provided guidance to all districts on when, how, and what the dollars could be used for over the coming two year spending window. OSPI is requiring every school board adopt its Student Recovery and Well-being Plan by the end of this month for next fall. District plans must address a comprehensive list of recovery elements, including learning loss, social emotional needs, diagnostic measures, equity and community partnerships. Staff, check your email to read Superintendent Smith's detailed overview of last night's discussion.

### Other successes for 2021

.5 FTE school counselor staffing enrichment, high-poverty schools at all grade levels.

Ongoing two days of training for paraeducators.

Recognition and support for school-based health centers.

Broadband funding, expansion, devices.

Emergency waivers for 2020 graduates.

Federal funding investments.

#### What happened to ...

- No balanced school year/calendar.
- No bridge year for classes of 2020 or 2021.

PERSONNEL REPORT

**EMPLOYMENT ...**

**Administrative:**

KEITH ROSS | DIRECTOR TECHNOLOGY, DISTRICT

**Certificated:**

ALEX ESPARZA | BEHAVIOR SP (2021-22), T&L

EMILY STEIN | PHYSICAL THERAPIST, SPEC ED

ETHAN STUTZ | MUSIC TEACHER, PIONEER MS

JANA DICKMAN | SCIENCE (2021-22), WA-HI

RYAN CAMPEAU | LANG ARTS (2021-22), PIONEER MS

THERESA YORK | L/A, SOC/ST (2021-22), PIONEER MS

ZOE WHITE | LANG ARTS (2021-22), GARRISON MS

**Classified:**

CAMERON PERRON | SUMMER SOL (TEMP), BERNEY

ERIC ODEM | TECH SPEC, DISTRICT OFFICE

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...**

**Certificated:**

BART WUEST | WA-HI, 3 YRS

LINDSEY JAMES | WA-HI, 7 YRS

**Classified:**

ARIANA VALVERDE | WWCCF, 5 YRS

- ARIANA WAS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN 2020-21

KIM LOCKEN | TEACHING & LEARNING, 19 YRS

MARK FRANKLIN | TRANSPORTATION, 9 YRS

MENELL MINA | BERNEY, 12 YRS

- MENELL WAS ON LAYOFF & LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN 2020-21

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...**

**Classified:**

MARK STIMMEL | GARRISON MS, 3 YRS

- TBD

**Teacher Appreciation Week**



Liz Campeau and Nora Badillo from the Human Resources Department deliver tokens of appreciation to teachers.

#ThankATeacher

**Graduation Rates Exceed Strategic Plan Targets**

School board members reviewed success indicators of the Strategic Plan as part of the accountability component promised to the community. School board members teamed with Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith in 2017 to develop an inclusive and comprehensive strategic planning process. Built on a foundation of stakeholder voice and equity, the plan incorporated a “We All Belong Here” vision that prioritized quality instruction, aligned systems, student supports and community partnerships.

Since the plan’s inception nearly five years ago, graduation rates have soared to all-time highs, from 80.4% to 91.7%. Additionally, the district has virtually eliminated the graduation gap between student populations through an unwavering commitment toward equity and access. The Hispanic/Latino graduation rate has increased nearly 20% under the school board’s oversight to 88%, 10% above the state average.

“The district exceeded graduation rate targets two years ahead of time,” said Superintendent Smith. “We are seeing more kids graduate and more kids prepared when they get to college based on data linked to students taking remedial courses. Our kids are persisting and outpacing state averages for staying enrolled in college than their counterparts across the state.”

Superintendent Smith reported approximately 60 percent of district graduates pursue higher education, which includes two and four year colleges, vocational schools and military service. He said students are also having success in college based on favorable persistent and retention rates. Persistent and retention rates are based on continued enrollment in an institution for two consecutive years following high school graduation.

“Our school board has provided the leadership that has resulted in measurable growth in student achievement,” said Superintendent Smith.

**Summer Sol Registration Now Open**

Summer Sol registration is now open for this summer’s programming. Summer Sol is Walla Walla Public Schools’ FREE summer program open to all WWPS students, grades K-12. The program provides access to additional learning opportunities, fun and engaging hands-on projects and activities, and free access to select community partner programs. Transportation and meals provided. To register for the program, go to:

[SUMMERSOL.ORG](http://SUMMERSOL.ORG)

Paper copies of the registration form will also be available in the main office of your child’s school. For more information on the program, visit [summersol.org](http://summersol.org) or call (509) 526-6787.

