

# 10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

August 17, 2021

## Safely Back to School

*District outlines COVID safety protocols*

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported all students will return full-time for in-person instruction when school starts Sept. 7. He provided school board members a review of Washington State Department of Health (WaDOH) required safety protocols Walla Walla Public Schools will be implementing this fall to keep students and staff safe.

Dr. Smith reminded everyone in attendance these state rules cannot be changed, modified or relaxed by local school boards or district officials. He also reviewed state sports and fitness guidance during COVID-19. Sports will be played this school year, including district, regional and state tournaments. Visit [waa.com](http://waa.com) for details.

State officials are requiring all staff, students and guests (regardless of vaccination status) to wear face coverings inside school buildings and on school buses this fall. Face coverings are optional when outdoors and can be removed when actively eating/drinking or under rare medical or disability exceptions as approved by the school nurse.

Classrooms have been arranged to maximize physical distancing between students, while still ensuring all children have access to a comprehensive, full-day school experience.

To ensure a safe eating experience, CDC-recommended physical barriers, rotating schedules and modified feeding locations have been incorporated. Traditional meal services (no longer grab and go) will be available to all students, free of cost, regardless of economic status. Students may also bring their own lunch if they desire. Drinking fountains and water filling stations are accessible throughout the day.

WaDOH identifies close contact as being less than 3ft from an individual with COVID-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a



**Dr. Wade Smith**  
Superintendent

**"Walla Walla Public Schools has carefully reviewed and incorporated the new state updates into its Safely Back to School Plans. Visit our website for information and resources detailing how WWPS plans to keep students, staff and visitors safe, while ensuring all students have access to a comprehensive, full-day school experience."**

*Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent*

24 hr. period. Vaccinated students are no longer required to quarantine in most circumstances. Families will be notified personally if their student is considered a close contact. Students and staff must stay home when sick. Students/families are expected to check for symptoms daily at home before coming to campus. As recommended by WaDOH, cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will be performed once a day, each night, after students leave, by custodial staff.

While not required at this time, staff and students who are fully vaccinated will avoid most quarantine requirements and may be subject to relaxed masking requirements announced by WaDOH in the future.

With parental consent, WWPS provides COVID testing for students as part of their layered prevention and response strategy.

For more information, visit:  
[-www.wwps.org/safelyback](http://www.wwps.org/safelyback)

## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED »»

Minutes from July 20 regular business meeting and executive session, minutes from August 4 special board meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, approval of teachers who hold a limited teaching certificate, August 3 & 17 accounts payable and July payroll, July Financial Report and Head Start selection criteria.

### BUDGET APPROVED »»

Last night the school board approved the 2021-22 school year budget. The budget is based on estimated enrollment of 5574 FTE with appropriations of \$96,048,099. Included in the budget is \$5.7M of Federal ESSER funds, which will be used to support academic acceleration, social and emotional supports, community partnerships and before and after school enrichment activities.

"We are investing today's dollars on today's students," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "I'm so proud of the school board for their bravery by allocating the necessary resources to help our students recover from this unprecedented pandemic."

The approved budget also maintains a \$6.3M ending fund balance meeting the school board's mandate of a 6 to 8 percent reserve.

School board members also approved the state required four-year plan.

### POLICY 1400 »»

School board members tabled proposed updates to Board Policy 1400- Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum to allow more time for discussion and research. The Policy Review Committee will continue to address this policy before it goes to the school board again for a vote.

**EMPLOYMENT ...**

**Certificated:**

KIMBERLY BROWN, PE ROVER, EDISON/WWCCF  
 MELISSA CARTER, K-3 INTERVENTION, GREEN PARK  
 ASHLEY ESTRADA, 3RD GRADE DUAL, EDISON  
 PHILIP KAHLER, SCIENCE TEACHER, OPPORTUNITY  
 JASON KNITTEL, COUNSELOR, WALLA WALLA ONLINE  
 DANIEL MEARS, JJC, JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER  
 TERESA WALSH, COUNSELOR, PIONEER MS

**Classified:**

RHONDA APPLEBEE, TEMP PARA, GARRISON/PIONEER  
 BELEN ALVAREZ, HEAD START ASST TEACHER, WWCCF  
 MERVAT ALZIADIN, PARA-EDUCATOR, WWCCF  
 CODY BELL, PARA-EDUCATOR, GARRISON MS  
 REBECCA BENZEL, HEAD ST ASSOC TEACHER, WWCCF  
 SABRINA BERT, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP  
 REBECCA CORONA, BIL ASST SEC/RECEPT, PIONEER MS  
 MARCUS DUNNIGAN, PARA-EDUCATOR, WA-HI  
 MARILYNDA "MINDY" DYE, PARA-ED, PROSPECT POINT  
 BRANDON HILL, TECH SPECIALIST III, TECHNOLOGY  
 LAUREN LEWIS, PARA-EDUCATOR, BERNEY  
 KRYS MARTZ, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP  
 JUDY MOSER, PARA-EDUCATOR, PROSPECT POINT  
 MAGGIE NICHOLSON, PARA-EDUCATOR, EDISON  
 KRISTINA SANDVICK, PARA-EDUCATOR, WA-HI  
 VIOLA SARDINA, TEMP HEAD ST ASSO TEACHER, WWCCF  
 JORDAN SPENGEMAN, PARA-EDUCATOR, WA-HI  
 MARIA URIBE, HEAD START ASST TEACHER, WWCCF  
 TRACY WALMSLEY, TEMP PARA-ED EDISON/GP (2021-22)  
 WAYNE WEAVER, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION  
 PATIENCE YOUNG, PARA-EDUCATOR, SHARPSTEIN

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...**

**Certificated:**

DANAE DARBY, SHARPSTEIN, 14 YEARS  
 KELLI NEAL, SPECIAL EDUCATION, 1 YEAR  
 GUADALUPE SANCHEZ, EDISON, 1 YEAR

**Classified:**

DAVID BARNETT, PLANT FACILITIES, 19 YEARS  
 LES ECHTENKAMP, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP, 4 MONTHS  
 ALEAH GIBB, PROSPECT POINT, 5 YEARS  
 MINDY GONZALES, BERNEY, 5 YEARS  
 CRESENCIA GUTIERREZ-DURAN, WWCCF, 15 YEARS  
 ANGELA HUDIBURG, SHARPSTEIN, 2 YEARS  
 CARLOS MONTALVO, PIONEER MS, 3 MONTHS  
 DAWN MOORE, BERNEY, 13 YEARS  
 JENNY SWAGGER, GARRISON MS, 4 YEARS  
 YOLANDA WHITE, EDISON, 29 YEARS  
 GARY WINSTON, GARRISON MS, 6 YEARS

**RECOMMENDATION FOR TERMINATION ...**

**Classified:**

JAMES TRUMP, PLANT FACILITIES, 19 YEARS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...**

**Classified:**

BELINDA AMUNDSON, PIONEER MS, 2 YEARS  
 • NOVEMBER 8, 2021 – DECEMBER 17, 2021  
 SHAWN RESER, EDISON ELEMENTARY, 4 YEARS  
 • SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 – DECEMBER 17, 2021 – COMPLETE STUDENT TEACHING

**Preserving Community Investments**

*Garrison MS Sidewalk Improvement Project*



The district continues to preserve community investments through its ongoing maintenance program. New sidewalks are going in at Garrison Middle School to reduce trip hazards caused by tree roots lifting concrete and pavers. New trees will also be planted in front of the school as part of this maintenance project. The target date for completion is Sept. 1.

**Bond Update**

Phase One projects at Wa-Hi are wrapping up as the school year draws near. The original science building, library addition and modernization, fitness facility and music building will be completed to start the school year. The gym parking lot is slated to be completed in October. The Commons renovation and addition will be completed later in the fall and the academic building will remain under construction throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Pioneer Middle School Phase One projects will be completed by winter break. The Lincoln High School renovation will begin this fall. Students will remain on campus during construction and utilize portable classrooms for instruction.

See more at: [wwps.org/bond](http://wwps.org/bond)