

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

November 16, 2021

School Foundation

District explores establishing foundation

Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith, School Board Vice President Ruth Ladderud and local school trust consultant Elsa Watson shared an update with school board members on the potential of establishing a foundation to support district students and programs. He reported a small group met last spring and summer to discuss the feasibility, logistics and benefits of forming a foundation.

School foundations are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. They can be stand-alone or sponsored under the umbrella of another current non-profit organization such as the Blue Mountain Community Foundation.

School foundations are similar to an athletic "booster club," but instead focus on acquiring resources through grants and/or giving that helps provide enhanced programming or experiences not possible with current state and levy funding. These school foundation organizations partner and collaborate with the district, existing booster clubs, other programs, and related community groups and organizations.

The creation of a foundation enhances experiences and opportunities for students, and professional development of staff. They provide a formal avenue for people, businesses or estates who want to support local schools.

School foundations provide a mechanism



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"Establishing a Walla Walla Public Schools foundation provides the district another funding source to advance district initiatives. Fundraising strategies would focus on grants currently not available to the school district."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

to apply for and increase grant funding opportunities. If established, fundraising would not compete with other school-related groups or further squeeze local giving avenues. Instead, the foundation would seek grant and other funding mechanisms not currently accessed.

Superintendent Smith outlined next steps in the process. He stressed if established, foundation members and leadership are critical to success.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from Nov. 2 regular study meeting, personnel report, athletic & non athletic contracts, Nov. 16 accounts payable, Oct. financial report and surplus modular classrooms.

POLICY FIRST READING »

2108 - Learning Assistance Program
2418 - Waiver of HS Graduation Credits
3112 - Social Emotional Climate
3231 - Student Records
3520 - Student Fees, Fines or Charges
4220 - Complaints Concerning Staff/Programs
5011 - Sexual Harassment of Staff Prohibited
5515 - Workforce secondary Traumatic Stress

SUPERINTENDENT EVAL »

Board members have started the annual evaluation for Superintendent Smith. It will be completed in March.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE »

Superintendent Smith reported the district's enrollment picture is clearer three months into the school year. The district remains 110 FTE below beginning year budget projections. This is an improvement from the start of the year when the district lagged 150 FTE off projections. Kindergarten and first grade remain lower than expected with other grade levels stable or slightly above estimates.

Legislative Update »

Last night School Board President Derek Sarley and Lobbyist Marie Sullivan shared a legislative preview. The 2022 Legislative session is Jan. 10 to March 10. Enrollment decline, staff ratio mix and small district access to skills centers are this year's priorities.

Walla Walla Public Schools Foundation

Next steps

- District leaders will conduct learning meetings with community groups and individuals.
- District leaders will begin recruiting for potential WWPS Foundation Board members and identifying a possible organizational structure.
- Align school foundation priorities with the planned strategic planning process.
- Report back the School Board later this spring.

EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

HEATHER ALEXENKO, TEMP HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER, WWCCF (2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR)
 JENNIFER APPLE, PARA-ED, GREEN PARK
 FAHIMA GRANT, PARA-EDUCATOR, GARRISON MS
 ISAAC HATCH, CUSTODIAN, WA-HI
 SERAH JOHNSON, TEMP HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER, WWCCF (2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR)
 PEYTON KNAUFT, PARA-EDUCATOR, WWCCF
 TARA POTTER, BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION
 GABRIELA REYES, TEMP HEAD START ASSISTANT TEACHER, WWCCF (2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR)
 SAMANTHA ROBINSON, TEMP PARA-EDUCATOR, PIONEER MS (2021-20 SCHOOL YEAR)
 FELIPE SALAZAR, CUSTODIAN, WA-HI
 ADRIAN SANDOVAL, BIL INTERVENTION SPECIALIST/ HOME-SCHOOL LIAISON, WA-HI
 MICHELE TURLEY, PARA-ED, SHARPSTEIN

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...

Classified:

KAY COSGROVE, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP, 3 YEARS
 ALY FAZZARI, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY, 2 MONTHS
 PATRICIA HARRIS, EDISON ELEMENTARY, 8 YEARS
 MARIANNE O'LEARY, SPECIAL EDUCATION, 33 YEARS
 WAYNE WEAVER, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP, 2 MONTHS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Classified:

ANNA SHAFER (NOV. 5, 2021 TO JAN. 2, 2022)

American Education Week

November 15-19

Saluting our Educators!

Farewell to Director Sam Wells

Mr. Wells says goodbye following two terms



School Board President Derek Sarley (R) presents outgoing School Board Member Sam Wells (L) with a Golden Apple for his service on the school board. Wells served as board president twice during his eight-year tenure on the school board.

He was instrumental in the successful 2018 bond election. He was a strong supporter for the development of the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families, he helped facilitate the hiring of Superintendent Smith and was part of two successful Replacement Educational Levies and four state Board of Distinction awards. Board members and Superintendent Smith thanked him for his service.

Bond Update

The updated Walla Walla High School gym parking lot opened this week for staff and students. The new foot bridge connecting the upper parking lot west of Yellowhawk Creek is also open. This bridge provides easy access to the gym parking lot.

Construction continues on the main academic building renovation and commons. The original commons and the new addition to the east of the 1963 building will reopen this winter. The new music building, new fitness center, renovated Blue Devil building (original Science building) and renovated library are in use.

Construction on Phase One projects at Pioneer Middle School are nearing completion. The renovated 1950's gym, new locker rooms, new auxiliary gym/fitness center, new entry addition, new cafeteria and renovated 1950's wing and classroom addition will be open to staff and students following winter break. Phase Two projects at Pioneer, which include additions to the main building for science and art classrooms, begin this winter. The project will be completed by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Progress continues on the 1927 Lincoln High School renovation. This project will be completed by December 2022 or earlier depending on phasing.

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