

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

February 15, 2022

Additional Learning Options

Summer & extended day programs

Last night Director of Accelerated Learning and Support Brent Cummings shared options for the district to consider for summer and extended day programs.

Cummings proposed scaling back this year's summer program as the district continues to move beyond the pandemic. He proposed a five week program from June 27 to July 29. Students would attend Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Edison, Green Park, Sharpstein, Garrison MS, Walla Walla High School, Opportunity and Lincoln HS. Cummings' program proposal would support approximately 800 to 1000 students K-12. The elementary and middle school program would feature Project Based Learning units. High school students would focus on traditional credit retrieval and additional credit courses.

The summer Special Education program would feature Extended School Year services and inclusion in Project Based Learning.

Lunch would be provided onsite for each of the 23 days and there would be morning and noon transportation routes.



Brent Cummings
Accelerated Learning

"It is essential that we continue to foster the learning outcomes we desire in our students and the implementation of high quality summer, afterschool, and extended day programming is integral to that process."

Brent Cummings

Director of Accelerated Learning

There are also considerations for more extended day programming to serve more students. Board members are reviewing Cummings' proposal. They have asked for additional information to be discussed at the next board meeting.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the Feb. 8, 2022 regular study meeting and executive session, minutes from the Feb. 9, 2022 Special Meeting Library Materials Committee: Board Appeal Review and Determination, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, Feb. 15 accounts payable and January Financial Report.

ENROLLMENT/BUDGET UPDATE »

Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor reported revenues and expenditures for January are in alignment with projections. Enrollment is 5488 FTE for February. The General Fund ending balance is currently \$4.9M or 5.2% of expenditures.

ED-FI UPDATE »

District Data Engineer Nandu Nair from the Technology Department provided an update on the district's Ed-Fi partnership as it works to securely and seamlessly connect education data systems.

Nair said Ed-Fi establishes a set of rules for the collection, management, and organization of educational data that allows multiple systems to share their information in a seamless, actionable way. This is designed to keep the data from being siloed and less useful to educators.



Golden Onion Glory



Last night Golden Onion recipients were honored. See back for more details.

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .**Certificated:**

LAURIE BOHNET, PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL, 28 YEARS

JOE GRIBNAU, BERNEY ELEMENTARY, 30 YEARS

ERIN MORENO, EDISON ELEMENTARY, 18 YEARS

Classified:

SARAH THOMPSON, WALLA WALLA HS, 4.5 YEARS

Quote of the Week

"What we learn with pleasure we never forget."

Alfred Mercier

Monthly Bond Update

The bond program continues to roll on. In January, Pioneer Middle School staff welcomed students into the recently completed Phase One bond projects. Staff took students on a tour of the renovated 1950's gym, new locker rooms and new auxiliary gym/fitness center. They also visited the new entry addition, new cafeteria, renovated 1950's wing, classroom addition and new performing arts expansion.

Phase Two projects at Pioneer, which include additions to the main building for science and art classrooms, are underway and will be completed by the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

At Walla Walla High School, the renovated and expanded original Commons opened last month for students to gather and eat. A renovated kitchen supports a variety of meal options and new serving windows improve efficiencies. The Commons has new heating and cooling systems, modern energy efficient windows in the iconic north-facing glass wall and a new student store.

Progress continues on the Wa-Hi student outdoor plaza just outside the Commons, where students will be able to socialize, eat meals on nice days and catch up on homework. The main academic building is halfway through its complete renovation and will be finished in August.

Contractors continue working on the historic Lincoln High School remodel and expansion to be completed this fall.

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- Twitter: @bondwwps

*Bond Program - Delivering on Our Promise***Legislative Update**

Lobbyist Marie Sullivan provided an update on the Legislative session in Olympia as it reaches its halfway point. Enrollment decline, staff ratio mix and small district access to skills centers are this year's priorities.

Electric Bus Grant

The district has an opportunity to apply for a grant through the State of Washington Department of Ecology to help purchase electric school buses. The grant application is due March 25 and the district would be notified in April if it is successful.

2022 Golden Onion Award Recipients

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea recognized six outstanding teachers for being named Golden Onion award recipients. Each of these educators will receive \$1000 to use for classroom and instructional improvements.

Longtime Walla Walla resident and one-time teacher Sue Gillespie and her husband Mike established the "Golden Onion Award" to provide school supplies, equipment and professional development funds to Walla Walla educators.

The "Golden Onion Award" is presented annually to district teachers at all grade levels. The Gillespie Teacher Development Fund is a component fund of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation. The Gillespie's say they are thrilled to support these dedicated Walla Walla teachers.

2022 Golden Onion Recipients:

- Rebecah Boeckman, Green Park Elementary
- Sue Schulz, Garrison Middle School
- Shannon Jones, Pioneer Middle School
- Kris Bland, Lincoln High School
- Shannon Ahrens, Garrison Middle School
- Jose Beleche, Garrison Middle School

The Golden Onion Fund is available for anyone to donate to who wants to support Walla Walla teachers. Visit the BMCF website to make a donation: www.bluemountainfoundation.org