

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

May 3, 2022

Strategic Plan Development

ThoughtExchange survey starts process

As the district wraps up a successful 2017-22 Strategic Plan, the Board of Directors is seeking broad stakeholder input as they prepare for the future, according to a report last night from Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith.

Beginning this spring and throughout next school year, the district will engage parents, staff, students and community members as they seek input towards the development of their next strategic plan.

The district will launch a ThoughtExchange survey for all stakeholders, kicking off their extensive outreach and input process.

The survey asks the community to weigh in on what they feel are the most important skills and attributes Walla Walla Public Schools' graduates must gain during their public school years in preparation for success after high school. This new ThoughtExchange interactive tool allows respondents to share their thoughts, as well as review and prioritize ideas shared by others. The confidential survey is offered in multiple languages and results will help inform future community engagements planned for the fall.

"Our collective vision continues focusing on 'Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates,'" said Dr. Smith. "Our school board is deeply interested in community input to help define what skills and experiences are critical for our future graduates."

The current strategic plan, developed in 2017 with broad stakeholder input and involvement, sunsets at the end of next school year. The current plan includes four goals and established multiple success indicators. Over the last five years, it prioritized high quality instruction, improved aligned systems between schools and programs, helped to promote safe and engaging school environments, and established enhanced social and emotional supports for students. The district experienced remarkable success meeting or exceeding nearly all of the



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Superintendent

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performance targets established. Under the current plan, graduation rates reached all-time highs, reading and math scores increased, 9th grade on-track graduation rates exceeded state levels for the first time, post-secondary success improved, and students and stakeholder perception results soared past nationwide rates. Additionally, student involvement in clubs, activities and athletics increased, attendance rates exceeded state levels, and student behavior rates improved.

The ThoughtExchange survey link is posted on the district's website and has been shared with parents, staff and students via ParentSquare. The link has also been sent to media outlets and shared on the district's social media channels. It will remain open through May 20.

Walla Walla Public Schools' Strategic Planning Engagement process will ramp up this fall with more ThoughtExchange surveys, community engagement activities, focus group discussions and staff and student input sessions. The school board plans to have a draft Strategic Plan ready for public viewing in December with the plan finalized in March.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the April 19, 2022 regular business meeting and executive session and April 20 special meeting, personnel report, May 3 accounts payable and April payroll, Resolution #03-2022 Capital Projects Budget Extension and Resolution #04-2022 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2022-2023.

BUDGET PREPARATIONS »

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor led a discussion on budget preparations and fiscal outlook for the 2022-2023 General Fund budget.

Taylor shared a four-year budget forecast to help school board members see revenue and expenditure projections beyond the upcoming 2022-2023 General Fund budget. She reported the four-year planning tool is based on 40 fewer students each year to represent the declining enrollment trend the district has seen the past few years.

Taylor noted operational costs continue to increase as well, stating each year it costs more to provide the same level of programming as the previous year.

The district is proposing reducing staff by up to at least 30 staff members for the 2022-2023 school year. These reductions are being made through attrition linked to retirements and staff moving on from the district.

More staff reductions are expected in the coming years as the district adjusts to its new enrollment reality. School board policy requires the district to maintain a 6 to 8 percent fund balance reserve. Federal pandemic recovery dollars have helped ease the revenue loss due to declining enrollment, but all of these funds are exhausted by 2024. Board members will approve the 2022-23 General Fund budget in August.

EMPLOYMENT . . .

Certificated:

LUCIANO ANTONIO, DUAL LANG (2022-23), PIONEER & GARRISON MS

STEPHANIE HICKS, SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (2022-23), SPECIAL EDUCATION

ANDREW SAYERS, DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS TEACHER (2022-23), SEATECH

Classified:

ALEKSANDER CORTEZ, HEALTH ROOM ASSISTANT (2022-23), GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY

STEVEN RINEHART, CYBERSECURITY AND HELP DESK ENGINEER, TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS . . .

Administration:

RICK KLINE, PRINCIPAL, GREEN PARK, 4 YEARS

Certificated:

PEDER FRETHEIM, MATH TEACHER, WA-HI, 17 YEARS

Classified:

SERAH JOHNSON, WWCCF, 6 MONTHS

JACLYN MELTON, BERNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 7 YEARS

KEVIN RENICHE, TRANSPORTATION CO-OP, 5 YEARS

CYNTHIA ZUNIGA, WWCCF, 2 MONTHS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE . . .

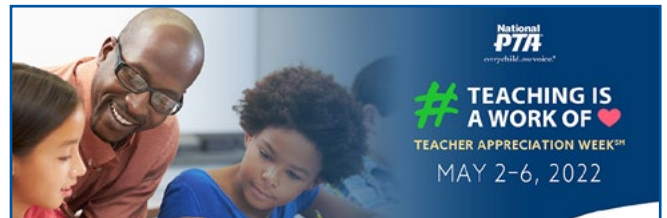
Certificated:

KIM KELSAY, ELD TEACHER, WA-HI, 26 YEARS

• TO SERVE AS 1.0 FTE LTEL SPECIALIST FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Quote of the Week

“Life itself is your teacher, and you are in a state of constant learning.”
Bruce Lee



Beyond the Pandemic with PLCs

Last night Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and district principals discussed how leveraging staff expertise and proven instructional practices will be the key to charting a path forward beyond the pandemic through Professional Learning Communities.

The three main components of Professional Learning Communities:

1. A School Focused on Learning
2. A Collaborative Culture of Collective Responsibility
3. Results Oriented.

A Professional Learning Community is not a program, it is a schoolwide culture. PLCs are based on the assumption the key to improved learning for students is continuous job-embedded learning for educators. According to John Hattie's list of factors related to student achievement, collective teacher efficacy through Professional Learning Communities tops the chart. Hattie's research shows these efforts are three times more powerful than prior student achievement, four times greater than student motivation, and seven times more impactful than reduced class sizes.

The district was making significant progress leading up to the pandemic by developing schoolwide Professional Learning Communities at all schools. Survey results from staff in 2019-20 showed 9 in 10 staff members were deeply engaged in this work and seeing powerful student learning as a result.

Superintendent Smith and district principals in attendance last night reported they are committed to moving beyond the pandemic by ensuring each school has productive teams to establish collaborative cultures at all schools.

Wa-Hi Student Performance

Drama students in Kristin Hessler's program performed scenes from the Spring Musical Cinderella during the school board meeting. Rogers & Hammerstein's Cinderella has more singing and dancing and much more character development for roles like the step-sisters, the prince and the fairy godmother.

Director Kristin Hessler and vocal director Colleen Hatch have assembled an outstanding cast that will perform once again with a live orchestra, under the direction of Julia Woods. We are also working in collaboration with a talented choreographer, Caleb Leitch.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook (@wahidramaproductions)

- May 12-14 & 19-21 @ 7PM / May 14 & 21 @ 2PM
- Admission is free

