

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

March 1, 2022

2017-2022 Strategic Plan Performance Review

School board members continued planning efforts for the district's next Strategic Plan which will be in place to start the 2023-2024 school year.

Last night they reviewed progress made from 2017 through the 2020, just before the pandemic closed schools that spring. The performance review showed significant progress has been made since 2017. Fourteen of the district's 15 performance indicators had met or exceeded Board goals, or demonstrated strong improvement since the plan was initiated.

Math and reading scores were up and graduation rates are at an all-time high. English language proficiency crested state results for the first time and attendance rates exceeded state figures with nearly 90 percent regular attendance, up 6.2% since 2015. There has been a 12 percent increase in students participating in co-curricular activities, including an increase in students of color.

Staff and student survey data reveals they feel safe on school campuses and staff support around collaboration, communication and support for district initiatives exceed nationwide schools of distinction by over 15%. The ACT gap had narrowed by .7 points, post secondary remediation rates have improved and Special Education



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

"Significant progress has been made since 2017, pointing back to the school board's strategic planning investments and strategies. The school board established bold performance targets, researched best practices, and invested in staff and strategies to achieve the desired outcomes."

Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

performance met target goals in almost all schools in both ELA and math. Board members will continue reviewing data linked to the Strategic Plan in the coming months.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the Feb. 15, 2022 regular business meeting and executive session, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, March 1 accounts payable and February payroll, Superintendent's evaluation and Superintendent's contract renewal.

COVID-19 UPDATE »

Dr. Smith reported COVID cases continue to decline in the district just in time for the mask mandate to be lifted in schools and on school buses after March 11.

He said this trend mirrors WA State and Walla Walla County COVID numbers. Dr. Smith said there were no new cases yesterday or today.

- 10 students and 1 staff member are within the 10 day isolation period

- There is a robust supply of rapid COVID tests in the warehouse

- The district is anticipating new DOH guidance on March 7 or 8 with implementation prior to March 12 when the indoor mask mandate expires. New L & I guidance should be released along the same timeframe

- WWPS will continue to provide masks and shields to students and staff

Monday Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced masks will no longer be required in schools after Friday, March 11. Federal transportation rules were also updated and masks will no longer be required on school buses after Friday, March 11. This change is in alignment with Oregon and California.

Governor Inslee noted declining case rates and hospitalizations across the west prompted California, Oregon and Washington to update their indoor masking guidance.

District to budget for fewer students next year

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith and Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor led a discussion last night with school board members on the district's financial outlook as it prepares the 2022-2023 General Fund budget.

The COVID pandemic has impacted revenue streams due to two years of declining enrollment. The district budgeted 5575 FTE for this year, but enrollment currently sits at 5489 FTE. Most of the enrollment decline has come from K-1.

Superintendent Smith is recommending next year's General Fund budget target be 5382 FTE and budget accordingly to the district's new enrollment reality. The Board discussed the need to "right-size" the workforce, which should be possible through attrition and retirements.

The district received approximately \$14M in federal ESSER funds to help with pandemic recovery and revenue losses during fiscal years 21-24. These one-time funds will be exhausted in two years.

EMPLOYMENT ...

Administrative:

JOHN SCHUMACHER, PRINCIPAL, WALLA WALLA HS

Classified:

YADIRA AVALOS, KITCHEN ASSISTANT, SHARPSTEIN
 ANA JUAREZ RAMIRO, KITCHEN ASSISTANT, WA-HI
 RUBI LOPEZ SANCHEZ, BIL ASST SEC, GARRISON MS
 ERICA WALSH, INTERVENTION SPEC, SHARPSTEIN

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENTS ...

Certificated:

JOHN GOLDEN, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 31 YEARS
 COLLEEN HATCH, WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL, 8 YEARS
 TENSIE LOVEJOY, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY, 37 YEARS
 BRITTANY MILLER, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY, 1 YEAR
 GRACE OGOSHI, WALLA WALLA ONLINE, 24 YEARS
 LORETTA WRIGHT, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY, 40 YEARS

Classified:

INGRID OLSEN-YOUNG, GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY, 6 YEARS
 PAM SPENCE, PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL, 23 YEARS

Quote of the Week

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Chamber Educator of the Year

Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kyle Tarbet and School Board President Ruth Ladderud recently presented Garrison Middle School teacher Conor Fish with the Chamber’s Hometown Hero Educator of the Year award.

Conor teaches English Language Arts and Social Studies. He models excellence in the teaching profession and is exceptional at delivering quality instruction to Walla Walla youth. He developed a program called Garrison University as a way to support and teach students of disadvantaged backgrounds so they have a clear path to college. Conor instills a strong work ethic within his students by teaching them time management and organizational skills in a highly rigorous academic setting. He has high expectations for all students regardless of their home life, demographics and socio-economic status. Students succeed in Conor’s classes largely because of his relentless support.



Middle and High School Conferences

Middle school and high school parent/teacher conferences are March 7-11. Conferences will be held virtually again this year via ZOOM due to COVID safety protocols. Parents will schedule a ZOOM conference using the WEB SCHEDULER located on the district and school websites. Contact your child’s school secretary for assistance with scheduling a conference.

No School Days

- Thursday, March 10 (NO SCHOOL Grades 6-12- Parent Conferences)
- Friday, March 11 (NO SCHOOL Grades 6-12- Parent Conferences)

Dr. Seuss Day!

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith read to first graders in Tina Holbrook’s class at Green Park Elementary in celebration of Dr. Seuss Day. Dr. Smith was joined by 10 community members participating in the event.

