



## Sports are Back!

### FREE ADMISSION TO ALL SPORTS EVENTS, PLAYS & CONCERTS

Last year at this time all high school sports in the state of Washington were placed on hold as a safety precaution during the pandemic. One year later a full fall sports schedule is on the calendar once again across the state. For athletes, parents and fans this is a welcome sight after last year's heartbreaking reality.

"We have a bit of normality which is really nice and kids and coaches are excited," said Athletic Director Dirk Hansen. "We have a traditional fall sports season when fall sports are supposed to be played. We anticipate the same for winter and spring sports."

Hansen said COVID safety protocols remain in place.

"We are working hard to make sure our kids are safe by masking-up and following the Department of Health guidelines as well as the WIAA standards," said Hansen. "There is nothing more we want than to keep our kids safe. It's just great being out there on the practice fields, in the stadiums and at the gyms seeing our kids excited to compete."

There is more good news Blue Devil fans. All Walla Walla High School home games and stage productions are now free for everyone to attend. The decision to drop all ticket fees aligns with the district's Strategic Plan initiative of engaging the community in school activities. Anyone wishing to attend home athletic contests for free simply needs to show up. Parents/guardians must accompany all middle and elementary aged children while in attendance. Some theatrical events, like drama productions and musicals, will require pre-registration to ensure seating capacities are not exceeded.

## Walla Walla Public Schools



Contractors replace aging sidewalks at Garrison Middle School so students have a safe place to walk by eliminating trip hazards.

## Maintenance Highlights Preserving Community Investments

It was a busy summer for Facilities and Operations as several projects were checked off the list as part of the district's ongoing maintenance program. New sidewalks and tree improvements were completed at Garrison Middle School to reduce trip hazards caused by tree roots lifting concrete and pavers.

A new boiler was also installed at Garrison Middle School to replace the 32-year-old systems.

Heating and ventilation systems at all schools in the district received preventative maintenance care this summer. Filters were changed, adjustments and balancing of systems completed and faulty parts were replaced. Several parking lots were seal coated to extend the life of the asphalt and new playground equipment was installed at Green Park Elementary and the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families.



Miki O'Connell-Joshua



Jackson Adams

## Congressional Youth Advisors

Wa-Hi Juniors Mikaila "Miki" O'Connell-Joshua and Jackson Adams were named to Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers' Youth Advisory Committee, following Superintendent Smith's nomination. McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Representative for Washington's 5th congressional district, established the committee with the primary purpose of advising her on youth perspectives and providing participants an opportunity to learn about and get involved in government.

This group will consist of high school juniors and seniors from across the 5th District who will come together a few times a year to provide input on federal issues.



SAMANTHA RUIZ

STEPHANIE REYES

## Equity and Dual Language Department staff ready to help migrant families

Walla Walla High School graduates and lifelong local residents Samantha Ruiz and Stephanie Reyes have new roles in the district as part of the Equity and Dual Language Department.

Reyes serves as a Migrant Specialist to ensure all migrant students have the support needed.

"We need to build in support for these students and their families while they transition," said Reyes. "We know the learning standards and course loads are rigorous so we help them navigate our school system in order for them to be successful."

As the Student Equity Engagement Intervention Specialist, Ruiz will focus on supporting students and their families, and also provide them with the resources needed to link them to community services.

"I will also be assisting other intervention specialists in promoting student attendance and academic success," said Ruiz. "I am looking forward to building positive relationships with our students and their families."

## Board of Directors:

Ruth Ladderud  
Eric Rindal  
Derek Sarley  
Terri Trick  
Sam Wells

## BOARD



Focus on Education

Is a community newsletter published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

## Walla Walla Public Schools

364 S. Park Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-3000

website: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)

### COMPREHENSIVE NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Walla Walla Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

- Title IX Coordinator & Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator  
LIZ CAMPEAU, Director of Human Resources  
364 S. Park Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-3000  
[lcampeau@wwps.org](mailto:lcampeau@wwps.org)
- Section 504/ADA Coordinator  
LIBBY THOMPSON, Director of Special Education  
364 S. Park Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-3000  
[lthompson@wwps.org](mailto:lthompson@wwps.org)

Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

## Where are they Now?

### Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

Class of 1988 graduate Stacy Bergevin applied his passion for math into a 29-year career in the banking business. Bergevin earned a finance degree from Washington State University and is employed as a Mortgage Loan Officer with Banner Bank.

Bergevin believes in giving back to his community. He is currently a member of the Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame committee and was the General Manager/Treasurer of Walla Walla American Legion Baseball for 20 years. He also coached youth baseball for years. Stacy loves most sports but has a special place in his heart for baseball. He played on one of the greatest teams in Wa-Hi history, winning the state title his senior year in 1988. He went on to play baseball at Walla Walla Community College following high school. He recalls the 1988 baseball team was very talented, but didn't reach its full potential until his senior year. The team finished 2nd in league to Eisenhower, then finished 2nd in Districts to Kennewick. Wa-Hi, went on to win Regionals to advance to the Final 4 as the only unranked team. Wa-Hi beat Kirkland HS in the championship game which had players who won the 1982 Little League World Series against Taiwan. He says this experience remains a special memory and he is proud of the way the team represented Wa-Hi baseball.

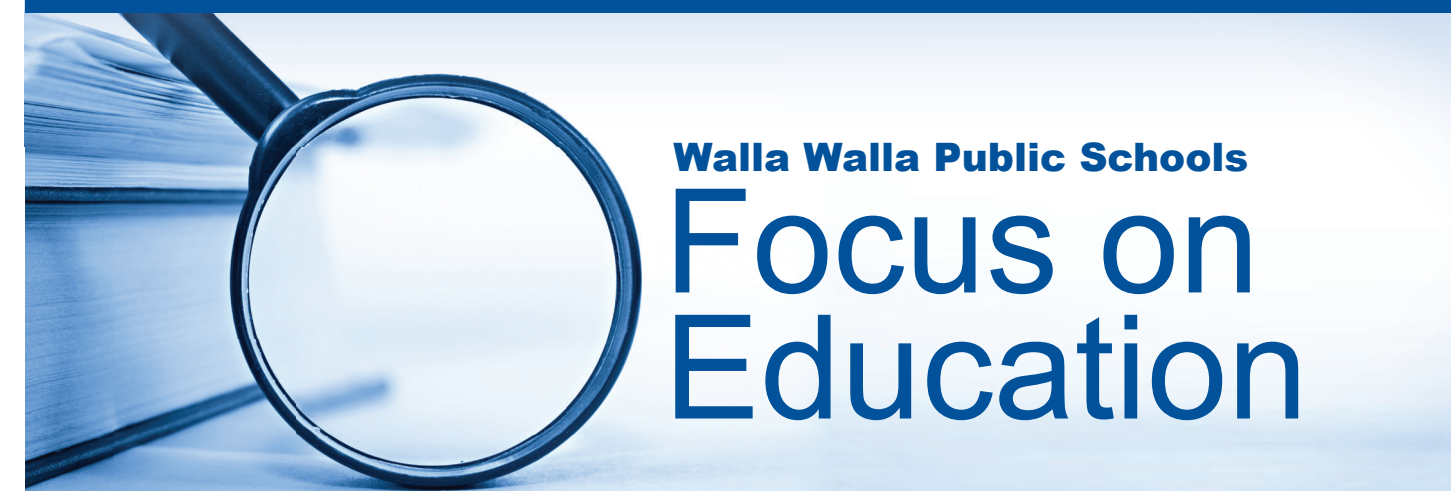
Bergevin's favorite teacher was Dr. Gary Banks. He appreciated his firm style and how he challenged him to be his best. Stacy and his wife Alexis of 24 years have two daughters and a son. They have enjoyed traveling to watch their kids in various school and travel sports teams over the years.



STACY BERGEVIN

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362  
Permit No. 35

VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE EN EL SITIO WEB DEL DISTRITO --- [WWW.WWPS.ORG](http://WWW.WWPS.ORG)



Walla Walla Public Schools

## Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Fall 2021 | Volume 24 | Issue 1



## Seibold at the helm of Lincoln HS Bond Project

Longtime Walla Walla contractor says construction is still fun

For nearly half a century Ken Seibold has been changing the construction landscape in the Walla Walla valley through hundreds of new projects and renovations. This North Dakota native landed in the region by enrolling in Walla Walla College to study engineering. In the 1970s Seibold partnered with Larnie Opp to form Opp & Seibold General Construction, Inc. This partnership lasted 44 years until local Chervenell Construction, Co bought the acclaimed company four years ago. Earlier this summer Chervenell Construction was identified as the low bidder on the 1927

*"The construction business is not predicated on I, it is on we. It is a cooperative effort of everybody involved. While I drive the bus, if you have a lot of cooperative passengers the bus almost drives itself."*

Ken Seibold

Seibold continued inside ■ ■ ■

## Inside This Issue:

- Superintendent's Message ■
- McMorris Rodgers' Committee ■
- Wa-Hi grads support families ■
- No cost to attend sports/plays ■
- Maintenance projects ■
- Tony Wenham - Bond Oversight ■
- Bond Project Updates ■
- Where are They Now? ■

## CONTENTS

### Our Vision

"Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates"

### Our Mission

Walla Walla Public Schools ensures all students receive high quality instruction in an aligned and coherent system while addressing their social and emotional needs in a safe and engaging environment.

[www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)



## “ Superintendent's Message ”



Walla Walla Public Schools mails the Focus on Education newsletter to the homes of residents three times per year. This publication serves as a platform to keep our community informed and connected to the school district.

We appreciate your involvement and support. The Board of Directors and I value your input and welcome your ideas as we strive to "Develop Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

Dr. Wade Smith  
Superintendent  
(509) 526-6715  
wsmith@wwps.org  
Twitter: @WallaWallaSup

## Fall Focus | 2021



### We're off to an amazing start!

We are nearly two months into school and I couldn't be more excited to have kids back in classrooms, on the fields and on our stages. We're off to an amazing start thanks to the collective efforts of faculty, parents, students and community.

Many students are experiencing the remarkable facility improvements our voters so graciously approved in the 2018 bond measure. At Wa-Hi we opened our newly remodeled 32,000 sq ft Blue Devil building, formerly referred to as the old science building. Our new music addition was unveiled, as well as a state-of-the-art culinary, fine arts and pottery facility. An 8,000 sq ft fitness addition, air conditioning in the 60-year-old small gym, and a newly renovated library are all now in use. And finally, new parking lots have been added, enhanced ADA accessibility improvements made across the campus, and we are now entering Phase 2 of construction set to be completed by Fall 2022. We remain on schedule and on budget.

We continue to have the privilege of supporting dozens of local contractors and vendors through our bond projects. Most importantly, we have delivered on every promise made to voters. Not one project more, not one project less.

While it has been energizing having kids back on campuses full-time, the polarizing and divisive climate across our nation, state and local community has been difficult to navigate. We understand your concerns, frustrations and requests. Please know your school board and I hear you. Whether parent, community member, staff or student, we will continue to listen and engage respectfully with you. I encourage everyone, regardless of your viewpoints, on masks, vaccinations, curriculum or equity, to focus on what we have in common; our passion and love for children. I am confident if we continue to communicate and seek to understand one another's opinions, we will get through this together. My door is always open for you.

Finally, I encourage the community to support our student athletes and performers. Admission to all sporting and stage events are free for everyone! We have incredible students and they have been waiting patiently, in some cases for over a year, to show off their hard work and talents. I look forward to your continued support as we work collectively to Develop Washington's Most Sought-after Graduates.

## Bond Oversight Committee *Ensuring accountability*

Walla Walla Public Schools is in year two of three in construction projects following the overwhelming support of facility improvements by voters during the November 2018 bond election. One of the promises made to the community following the successful ballot measure was to form a Bond Oversight Committee. This diverse group of community members adds a layer of transparency and accountability to the bond program.

The district has delivered on this promise by forming a committee that meets regularly to review financial statements, study project scope, and monitor construction documents and bid solicitations to ensure bond dollars are only being spent on projects approved by voters.

"I've been so impressed by this group of citizens who care deeply about their community and local schools," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "Their involvement enhances bond dollars accountability to district stakeholders and builds public trust and confidence related to the bond projects."

The Bond Oversight Committee is also charged with ensuring any excess funds are returned to voters to reduce the cost to local taxpayers. Only voter-approved projects will receive bond funds.

Visit the Bond Oversight Committee tab on the [www.wwps.org/bond](http://www.wwps.org/bond) website to see meeting agendas, monthly project updates, monthly financial dashboards and other budget tracking information.



### Core Purpose

The core purpose of the Bond Oversight Committee is to carefully monitor the delivery of the bond program following the successful 2018 bond election. This committee ensures accountability, fiscal transparency and community trust. Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith serves as the direct liaison to the group.

### Committee Membership

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| » Scott Morasch, Chair  | » Terry McConn   |
| » Mark Hess, Vice Chair | » Jennifer Mouat |
| » Bonnie Bowton         | » Dick Moeller   |
| » Lawson Knight         | » Ken Seibold    |
| » Kim McDaniels         | » Tony Wenham    |

Stay  
Connected!  
» Web: [wwpsbond.org](http://wwpsbond.org)  
» Twitter: @bondwwps



### OVERSIGHT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT » TONY WENHAM «

Hard work has always been the make-up of Bond Oversight Committee member Tony Wenham. When he was attending Walla Walla High School in the 1970s he worked 40 hours a week at Fleenor's grocery store boxing groceries.

During Tony's childhood he attended Berney Elementary and Pioneer Junior High before graduating from Walla Walla High School in 1979. Tony accelerated in the high school construction program where he finished in the top 10. But his business aspirations took him in a different direction than construction and shortly after graduating from high school he opened his first sandwich shop on Boyer Ave near Whitman College. He later expanded the business to two shops, landing at his current Tony's Sub Shop location on the corner of Isaacs Avenue and Clinton Street, adjacent to Green Park Elementary.

Tony loves his community and is constantly looking at ways to give back. During his career he has supported Lunch with the Principal program at Green Park to recognize students who are making good choices. When Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reached out to Tony to invite him to participate on the district's newly formed Bond Oversight Committee Tony immediately said it would be an honor to serve the community in this capacity. Since the committee was formed following the successful bond election in 2018, the group has met 25 times to review financial statements, project scope, construction documents, and bid solicitations to ensure that bond dollars are only being spent on projects approved by voters.

*"It's important the community gets to see how their money is being spent,"*

said Tony Wenham. "We are here to ensure there is no overcharging or problems. If anyone has a question about the bond program, just come down to the shop and talk, or leave a message or send email and I will get back to them."

# BOND REPORT DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

## Fall Project Overview - A Closer Look at Our Progress! 2021



*New culinary arts classroom*  
A new state-of-the-art culinary arts classroom is part of the improvements.



*New music building addition*  
Features larger classrooms, natural light, improved acoustics, practice rooms and instrument storage.



*New ADA modern restrooms*  
New larger, ADA restrooms with easy to clean surfaces.



*New auxiliary gym*  
New auxiliary gym will provide adequate space for PE and athletic activities.



*Renovation has begun*  
Abatement of asbestos underway.



*Stripped to the studs*  
Classrooms are being demoed in preparation for modernization.



## give back

### WA-HI GRAD MENTORS YOUTH

Wa-Hi Class of 2020 graduate and now Whitman College student Aldo Feria is volunteering in schools to help local children. Aldo is part of Whitman's Student Engagement Program and says he wants to give back to the community by mentoring children. He plans to volunteer at his former school, Edison Elementary.

### Seibold » Cont. from page 1.

Lincoln High School renovation and named Seibold to serve as the project's manager.

Although Seibold has been involved in several smaller district projects over the years, this is his first major renovation of a school for the Walla Walla School District. Renovation highlights include modernizing the 1927 classrooms, minor renovation of the 1964 wing, a new ADA entrance with an elevator for handicap accessibility, parking improvements and a drama addition.

"It will be nice for the community to be able to say we restored a building that was built in 1927," said Seibold.

The school will be under construction throughout the entire 2021-22 school year. Students will remain on campus during construction, being served in nearby portable classrooms.

Seibold says overseeing construction projects remains his passion after all these years.

"It's still fun so I keep doing it," says Seibold. "Walla Walla has treated us well."

Ken's wife Linda was a longtime school district Library-Media Specialist. They have two adult children and two grandchildren. He says he enjoys traveling, skiing, yard work and spending time with family.