

10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | February 6, 2015

State Assessment *Students set to take Smarter Balanced exams this spring*



Maria Garcia

School board members went back to school last night during a public work session to review the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exams set to roll out this spring to students in grades 3-11.

School board members were each provided a Chromebook for the exercise to simulate what students will be experiencing during the online exams in math and English/Language Arts. Assessment Coordinator Maria Garcia, Common Core State Standards Transition Coordinator Casey Monahan and Technology Director Forrest Baker facilitated the session.

School board members commented on the rigor of the exams and depth of understanding students must demonstrate to be successful. They also said the district needs to provide students more access to technology for them to be ready for these

new tests. Test results are expected back within a couple of weeks of taking the exams.

Passing scores on the SBAC indicate students are on track to be ready for credit-bearing college courses when they graduate from high school. Results from this spring's testing will likely show fewer students meeting these new, higher, benchmarks than have been passing the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) and High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) in recent years. In fact, pass rates are expected to be similar to those seen when the WASL, Washington state's first assessment, was implemented in 1997.

Garcia and Monahan are producing a video and other communications tools to help inform parents about SBAC.



Photo (L-R): School board members Sam Wells, Anne Golden and Cindy Meyer take practice Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests as part of a review of the state's new assessment system. This spring students in grades 3-11 will take online exams in math and English/Language Arts.

Board Meeting Highlights

■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Jan. 20 and 27, 2015 board meetings, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra-curricular, Feb. 3 accounts payable and January payroll.

■ Open Enrollment . . .

School board members received for first reading a revision to Policy 3130: District Attendance Areas and Open Enrollment.

■ Graduation Requirements . . .

School board members received an update on a proposed revision to Policy 2410: High School Graduation Requirements. The Washington State Board of Education has changed the state graduation requirements for the Class of 2019. The total number of credits required to graduate will be 24, up four from the current 20 credit mark. Walla Walla Public Schools currently requires 22 credits to graduate. See more at:

http://sbe.wa.gov/GradRequirements/ClassOf2019.php#.VM_xe9LF_To

■ College Ready Math Initiative . . .

School board members approved the awarding of a \$49,100 College Ready Math Initiative Grant. This initiative funds an intensified Algebra program over the next two years for struggling students. This hands-on technology rich program will allow students to progress at an accelerated rate to reach grade level.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

NONE TO REPORT

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Certificated:

MARY KLEIN | 18 YEARS | TEACHER
Grade 3, Edison (*effective 6/12/15)

Classified:

BETSY ADKINS | 41 YEARS | ADMIN. ASSISTANT
Superintendent's Office (*effective 5/31/15)
RHETTA HARTWELL | 4 MONTHS | BUS ASSISTANT
Transportation (*effective 1/26/15)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NONE TO REPORT

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL ...

BERTA HERRERA, JOYCE MORENO, AMY REED to CABA 2015 Conference in San Diego, CA (Funding: Title III, Ad Match)

JOHN GOLDEN to Nike Championship Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coach's Professional Growth)

LAURE QUARESMA to Rio Grande Valley Charter School Tour in McAllen, TX (Funding: WA Charters)

BRENT CUMMINGS to National Afterschool Association in Washington, DC (Funding: NAA)

Quote of the Week

"Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers."

Steven Spielberg

Americanism

JROTC presents colors for school board



JROTC Instructor Sergeant Mark Mebes and members of the Walla Walla High School Color Guard presented colors to open last night's school board meeting. Cadets Sabrina Keenan and Annalise Juergensen sang the National Anthem.

High School English overview

Walla Walla High School English teachers Keith Swanson, Chris Duncan and Jill Meliah provided an overview of 10th and 11th grade English curriculum to school board members. Lincoln High School Principal Marci Knauff updated the board on English content being taught at Lincoln. These new indepth school board reports are being presented to help board members have a better understanding of what is being taught in district schools.

A primary message delivered to the school board last night is the alignment of the English curriculum to the new Common Core State Standards.

Presidents Day Feb. 16

There is no school Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents Day. Classes resume Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Parent Conferences

- No School Thursday, Feb. 26 and Friday, Feb. 27
- Check with school for a conference schedule

Snow Make-Up Day - May 8

School was canceled Nov. 20, 2014 due to slick road conditions. School will be held Friday, May 8, 2015 as the snow make-up day.