

Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



School Board Meeting Recap | May 7, 2019

Graduation rates soar above state average

Walla Walla High School's four-year rate 10 percent above state average; Lincoln HS at an all-time high

Last night Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea provided an update to the school board on district graduation rates noting the district is close to meeting its 2022 goal. Walla Walla High School's four-year graduation rate is 90 percent, which is 10 percent higher than the state average. Lincoln High School's four-year rate is 85 percent, which represents a 15 percent improvement over the past five years. Wa-Hi has seen a seven percent increase over a five year span. The district's overall graduation percentage is 82 percent. The target for 2022 is 85 percent.

Graduation rates for Hispanic students are also seven percent above state averages and have witnessed 12 percent growth over a five year period.

WWPS graduation rates discussed included WWCC Alternative Education Program students. These students will



Chris Gardea

"Regardless of your role; whether teacher, coach, assistant, or support services, you all play a part in connecting, inspiring and supporting our students across the finish line. All of you have helped shape this impressive data in one way or another."

Wade Smith
Superintendent

not be included in future years due to re-engagement rules. This move is expected to further trend district graduation rates up.

Gardea also reported fewer district graduates who enter college are needing to take remedial courses based on National Student Clearinghouse data. This data target is also a strategic plan focus area.

Board Meeting Highlights

■ CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL . . .

Minutes from the April 16, 2019 regular business meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, May 7 accounts payable and April payroll, Resolution 03-2019 request for waiver from minimum 180-day school year for kindergarten teachers, Resolution 04-2019 delegating authority to WIAA 2019-2020, and revision to Head Start/ECEAP Policy Council by-laws.

■ Spring Professional Day . . .

There is no school Friday, May 10 for Spring Professional Day.

■ Teacher Appreciation Week . . .

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-10. Thanks to all our teachers for playing a pivotal role in our children's lives.

■ Free dinner at Day of the Child . . .

District teams with Fort Walla Walla Museum for FREE Day of the Child event

- Friday, May 10 from 4 to 8 p.m.
- Fort Walla Walla Museum
- Free dinner for the first 500 guests
- Community agencies in attendance to share information
- Games, bouncy houses, face painting
- Live local music: Salvador Hernandez, Robert Elizondo, Ballet Folklorico (Norma Arceo) and Laura Angula
- Free entrance to Fort Walla Walla Museum

Curriculum Adoption Recommendation

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulius presented her final recommendation for the adoption of new High School Science and High School Algebra Geometry Algebra II curriculum. Last month, Curriculum Adoption members hosted public information meetings to showcase the materials and answer questions. The materials were also available for public display at the district office in April.

There will not be traditional textbooks for the science adoption. These materials will be digital to use on personal devices like Chromebooks. Math will use a textbook. The Adoption Committee is planning to ask the school board for approval May 21 for implementation in the fall of 2019.

PERSONNEL
REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Administrative:

JUSTIN VERNON | INTERIM PRINCIPAL, BLUE RIDGE

Certificated:

JUDITH ALLISON | HEAD START (TEMP), PRESCHOOL

ERIN ARMIJO | SPEECH LANG PATH, SPECIAL ED

KORRIE BEEMER | STEM, PIONEER MS

ADAM BERG | SPECIAL EDUCATION, WA-HI

HELEN CANTERO | KINDERGARTEN, SHARPSTEIN

NATHAN FERRARO | SPEC ED (TEMP), GARRISON MS

ARACELI GARCIA | 2ND GR BILINGUAL, BLUE RIDGE

TYANA HERBRANDSON | SPEC ED (TEMP), LINCOLN HS

MELANIE MEDINA | MATHEMATICS, WA-HI

ERIN PEEK | AGRICULTURE EDUCATION, WA-HI

Coaching:

ADAM BERG | HEAD BOYS BASKETBALL, WA-HI

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT ...

Administrative:

VICTOR VERGARA | DIR OF BILINGUAL ED, 2 YRS

Certificated:

JUSTIN ADAMS | WA-HI, 2 YRS

FAYDALE CURTICE | LINCOLN HS, 3 YRS

JACKELINE GARANZUAY | GARRISON MS, 1 YR

MELINDA MAGNAGHI | BLUE RIDGE, 3 YRS

MARISSA PAYTON | PIONEER MS, 3 YRS

LOLA RAMOS VERGARA | EDISON, 2 YRS

AUDREY SCHMID | SPECIAL ED, 13 YRS

- AUDREY IS RESIGNING .5FTE & WILL CONTINUE .5 FTE

ELISA WEINMAN POGUE | BR PRESCHOOL, 29 YRS

Classified:

RACHELLE (SHELLI) FULLEN | WA-HI, 30 YRS

CAMILLE KAMMER | PIONEER MS, 2 YRS

MARGUERITE (MAGGIE) MIRANDA | GREEN PARK, 18 YRS

JAMIE OLSON | BERNEY, 3 YRS

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Certificated:

JUSTIN VERNON | GREEN PARK, 3 YRS

- TO SERVE AS BLUE RIDGE INTERIM PRINCIPAL FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Classified:

DANICA BENTLEY | GREEN PARK, 4 YRS

- SEPT 2019 TO JAN 2020 TO COMPLETE STUDENT TEACHING

School Board Study

Elementary Consolidation Review and Early Learning Expansion

Tuesday night, school board members reviewed survey results as part of their Elementary Consolidation Review and Early Learning Expansion study. A total of 354 people responded to the survey which featured open-ended questions about the need for Early Learning programs and thoughts on addressing elementary enrollment dips. School board members discussed how to identify themes and gain the most from the input. The survey results will be posted on the study's webpage - www.wwps.org.

Superintendent Smith reported on Early Learning Program space regulations and requirements. His presentation helped school board members understand the limitations and regulations related to early learning spaces. He also reviewed five of the district's elementary schools to illustrate how they measure up against the early learning facility standards. Edison was not reviewed because it is the district's Dual Language magnet school and is not being considered as part of any future plans.

Board members held a special study meeting Wednesday, May 8 to continue their work. Superintendent Smith reviewed the basic education prototypical funding model for the district and compared it to actual staffing levels. The district is currently 74.81 FTE over the prototypical funding model for basic education. He also reviewed enrollment trends and projections and efficiency comparisons. No action was taken. The school board will make a final decision in November.

Visit the district website and click on the Elementary Consolidation Review and Early Learning Expansion banner for additional information on the study.

