

# Walla Walla Public Schools 10-10 Staff News



## School Board Meeting Recap | March 19, 2019

### Board approves new school hours

*Slight change to school hours to save district*

*\$400,000 annually in transportation costs*

Following weeks of study and input, school board members unanimously approved the Transportation/School Time Efficiency proposal which will save more than \$400,000 a year in transportation costs by adjusting and aligning school start times. All elementary schools will start at approximately 7:50 to 8 a.m. as will 1st period at Wa-Hi. Middle Schools and 2nd period Wa-Hi will begin at 8:50 a.m.

Superintendent Wade Smith conducted a Communication and Engagement Plan over the past several weeks to elicit feedback. He met with staff to discuss the proposal. The district also sent home a fact sheet to parents and created a webpage on the district's site which housed a public survey.

Superintendent Smith reviewed data from the study which included nearly 1000 completed surveys. He reported



Wade Smith

"There was overwhelming support for the proposal to adjust school hours slightly to enhance transportation efficiencies. People understand funding is tight in today's post-McCleary public schools environment and were willing to make a minor change to further stretch our precious resources."

**Wade Smith**  
Superintendent

an overwhelming majority supported the proposal now slated for implementation to start the 2019-20 school year. Transportation Director John Griffith will begin developing new bus routes and have them completed by June.

### Elementary Consolidation and Early Learning Expansion calendar

The Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors continued discussion last night about their elementary consolidation and early learning expansion study. The board adopted a timeline for the study and operational understandings to help guide the process. The board will take the next eight months to complete a study addressing the issue of declining elementary enrollment and a call for more early learning opportunities. The district has lost 250 elementary students over the last nine years and is anticipating 25 empty classrooms across its six elementary campuses in the next few years.

The board's study will include site visits to elementary schools, surveys, enrollment data reviews, financial impact analysis and preschool program options. They are developing a webpage to house information about the study as a reference for staff, parents, students and stakeholders to engage.

### Board Meeting Highlights

#### ■ CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL . . .

Minutes from the March 5, 2019 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, March 19 accounts payable, Resolution 02-2019 - Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants, Asset Preservation and High Performance School Buildings program annual update, Wa-Hi Educational Specifications and excused absence for Director Mr. Wells.

#### ■ Action Items Approval . . .

*School board members took action on the following items:*

- Wa-Hi Science Schematic Design
- Public Testimony: Transportation Efficiencies and Alignment
- Elementary Consolidation Review and Early Learning Expansion Planning Calendar.

#### ■ Enrollment Report . . .

Superintendent Smith reported the district's enrollment count for March 2019 is 5691. The budget target is 5600 FTE.

#### ■ School Retirees Week . . .

School Retirees Appreciation Week is March 18-24. School board members thanked retired educators for supporting Walla Walla youth.

#### ■ Spring Break . . .

- No School April 1-5 (Spring Break)
- Early Dismissal K-5 (March 29)

PERSONNEL  
REPORT

**RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT . . .**

**Certificated:**

HEIDI COHAN | BLUE RIDGE, 5 YRS  
- WAS ON LEAVE FOR 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

**Classified:**

CHELSEY DAVIDSON | BR PRESCHOOL, 5 MONTHS  
LASHENAE STEAGALL | TRANSPORTATION, 2 MONTHS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE . . .**

**Certificated:**

BARBARA CASEY | SPECIAL EDUCATION, 11 YRS  
- INTERIM PRINCIPAL AT PROSPECT PT 2019-2020  
ABBY LUCKSTEAD | PIONEER MS, 3 YRS  
SARA PINKERTON | EDISON, 7 YRS

**Quote of the Week**

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

Steven Spielberg

**JROTC Booster Club Donation**

**HAPO also provides JROTC funds to enhance program**



The JROTC Booster Club presented the Wa-Hi JROTC program with a check for \$4000 to support the program. JROTC Booster Club President Gene Gossett reported the club's successful benefit dinner generated the funds.

HAPO Credit Union also presented the Wa-Hi JROTC program with a check for \$1000, HAPO will donate another \$1000 to the program. HAPO Credit Union also provided JROTC cadets financial literacy training earlier this school year.



**New Wa-Hi Science Building**

**School board approves schematic designs**

Last night, school board members approved preliminary schematic designs for the new Walla Walla High School science building. Approved by voters in the November 2018 bond program, the new science building will feature eight, 1400 sq. ft, lab classrooms fully equipped to support all disciplines of science offered at Walla Walla High School. Construction will begin this fall. Visit the district's webpage and click on Bond Updates to learn more.



**Curriculum Adoption Update**

**New curriculum on pace for next school year**

Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Christy Krutulius reported the district is on target to adopt new High School Science and High School Algebra Geometry Algebra II curriculum later this spring. 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. Materials will be on display and public informational meetings are set; April 9 (Math) and April 18 (Science). The Adoption Committee is planning to bring a recommendation to the school board in May for consideration and implementation in the fall of 2019.

**Garrison Principal position open**

**Elizondo named Touchet Superintendent**

Walla Walla Public Schools announces an opening for principal of Garrison Middle School. Current Principal Robert Elizondo has accepted Touchet School District's superintendent position and is resigning his position at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 school year. The position closes April 9.

**High School Update**

**Zoe Gannon, Student Representative**

ASB elections are this week. Winter Wish concluded with a celebration in the library and the Every 15 Minutes DUI prevention activity was a success.