

10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

May 5, 2020

Budget Process

School board continues discussions for developing 2020-2021 budget

School board members conducted a study meeting May 5 to continue planning for the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget. Concerns over the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic were voiced throughout the meeting. Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith praised the school board for its forward planning and pragmatic approach to budgeting to put the district in strong financial standing, using reserves to help withstand some of the anticipated state funding dips as a result of COVID-19.

Superintendent Smith revealed three budget scenarios for the school board to consider as it provides guidance based on varying levels of financial risks. Conservative, moderate and aggressive budget scenarios were discussed. Planning parameters for the scenarios were based on enrollment projections, preventative maintenance levels, state funding cuts and



Dr. Wade Smith
Superintendent

“Although we are in a strong financial position, we will need to take preventive measures to address the economic impact.”

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

deficit spending levels. Superintendent Smith says state funding dips are likely to occur next year, but are expected to be more drastic during the 2021-2022 school year. He said decisions made this year will have profound impacts on the next year or two as well. No decisions were made last night. School board members will have another budget planning meeting May 19 and one in July before it goes up for a vote August 18.

Board Meeting Highlights

APPROVED »

Minutes from the April 21, 2020 regular business meeting, personnel report, May 5 accounts payable and April payroll and Resolution 06-2020 Delegating Authority to WIAA 2020-2021.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE »

School board members conducted a conference call last night with lobbyist Marie Sullivan to learn more about how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting state finances. School board members will conduct a special virtual meeting Thursday, May 7 at 1 p.m. to approve a resolution to urge legislators to not cut Local Effort Assistance or Levy Equalization for property poor communities like Walla Walla. This \$3.3 million annual state funding source is critical to district operations.

VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING »

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors is conducting board meetings online. The Zoom meetings are open to the public via telephone for audio-only listening.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL »

The last day of school will be pushed back five days from Friday, June 12 to Friday, June 19. Graduation dates remain the same for high school students. In order to maintain graduation dates, seniors will be provided five additional days of learning experience the week following graduation. A focus on college, career, and post-high school planning will be the focus of instruction as seniors partner with counselors, advisors and other staff.

Equity & Access Telephone Hotline

Spanish speaking families needing information and support now have a dedicated telephone hotline!

(509) 526-6787



L-R: Yaneth Hernandez, Dr. Julie Perron and Marilyn Melgoza are excited to begin staffing a telephone hotline in Spanish from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays to support student learning during the COVID-19 campus closure period. They will provide families with information, school resources and appropriate school contacts as needed.

