

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Special School Board Meeting - 5:30 PM
September 29, 2020
Online/Virtual Zoom Meeting

IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE: Pursuant to the Governor’s Proclamation No. 20-28, school board meetings during the COVID-19 disease outbreak must not take place in-person, but occur remotely. Members of the public are invited to attend by utilizing the following methods:

Watch: <https://zoom.us/j/95197879603>

Listen: Dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter the Webinar ID: 951 9787 9603

I. CALL TO ORDER: (5:30 p.m.) *Mr. Wells*

II. ROLL CALL:

Mr. Sam Wells, President Mr. Eric Rindal
Mr. Derek Sarley, Vice President Mrs. Terri Trick
Mrs. Ruth Ladderud

III. CONSENT: *Mr. Wells*

1. Excused Absence for Director Mr. Rindal

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: (5:35 p.m.) *Mr. Wells*

V. REPORTS: (5:45 p.m.) *Mr. Wells*

1. Safely Reopening Schools: Transition to Yellow Stage Discussion: *Dr. Wade Smith*

VI. ACTION: (6:30 p.m.) *Mr. Wells*

1. Safely Reopening Schools: Transition to Yellow Stage Consideration

VII. ADJOURNMENT: (6:40 p.m.) *Mr. Wells*

CITIZENS' COMMENTS
Special Board Meeting
September 29, 2020

We are reaching out as community members and parents of two elementary school children, to share our deep concern at what is being considered today, and the possibility of returning to face-to-face instruction in the near future. First of all, it seems **deeply concerning that a board meeting cannot be held in person, yet you are still considering sending children back to school.** Adults can generally follow instructions on mask-wearing and physical distancing, yet you are looking at the possibility of sending our youngest children back to face-to-face interaction when, at the best of times, they can follow instructions for very short periods of time. And you're considering doing this at a time when there still seems to be more questions than answers.

Even though numbers seem to be stable or plateauing in our area, that has only been the case for a short amount of time. Additionally, **it seems irresponsible to consider a quick reopening when health authorities have been cautioning the public from doing so too soon,** especially as we are entering flu season and the cooler weather would limit space to indoor facilities only.

We all want to be able to regain a sense of normalcy and be able to offer our students the best opportunity at instruction and socialization for their growth and development. However, I'm concerned that rushing this decision will only have a negative and longer-term effect, setting us back on the goal that we all hope to achieve. It makes me wonder how many illnesses, or worse deaths, are worth risking because we're anxious to return to that normalcy.

Superintendent Smith and all the staff at WWPS have worked hard to prepare and offer a strong comprehensive distance learning program with support and resources available for students with additional needs. I hope the board will continue to support the good work that has already started this fall with less than ideal circumstances in favor of protecting the health and lives of our children & teachers.

I know that you are balancing a lot of pressures and opinions, but I hope that you take this into consideration as you review this decision.

Thank you,
Margarita & Matt Banderas

Dear WWPS School Board,

In advance of tonight's school board meeting, we are writing today as community members and parents of a first-grader to share our deep concern about any plans to reopen schools to in-person instruction at this point in time. It is our strong opinion that **the WWPS should NOT reopen schools to in-person instruction at this time.**

The infection rates in the Walla Walla area are not stable and, in any event, are significantly higher than any reopening plan would allow for. In order to secure a long-term reprieve from COVID-19, we need to minimize the chances of infection pathways as much as possible in our community.

The WWPS plan to reopen puts K-2 as the first group of students to return to in-person instruction. This puts the very youngest kids at risk of infection and becoming spreaders of COVID-19. **Children K-2 have a much harder time wearing masks, abiding by and understanding the importance of social distancing, and require more physical help from teachers and staff than older kids.** While children may be at lower risk of serious infection than adults, they can and do get the virus, and can easily spread this among one another and the community at large. There is strong evidence that children can carry the Coronavirus at levels far higher than adults, making them extremely prone to being asymptomatic carriers and spreaders of the disease ([New York Times](#)). This has a ripple effect in the community. One asymptomatic child who carries COVID-19 could spread it to another child who in turn takes it home and infects the parents, or worse, the grandparents.

In communities where schools have reopened there have been upticks in the caseload locally. Children can get COVID-19, and the impact would be widespread. To safely protect children and staff from infection, measures must be implemented that provide for testing for the general, asymptomatic population of the community. However, **there is not adequate testing locally to ensure that our teachers are safe, let alone our children.**

WWPS should be applauded for the efforts they have made to make this online fall so equitable and effective. The online learning plan that the WWPS has instituted has been working extremely well. We see no reason to risk the health and lives of our youngest children and risk spreading the virus to larger numbers in the community while the caseload of COVID-19 locally is still so high and continuing to grow.

We strongly encourage the WWPS School Board to continue online instruction and **not reopen schools in the near future.**

Thank you,

Michael Simon & Leah Wilson-Velasco

I sincerely hope that the school board does not decide to jeopardize the health of our teachers, our children, and our community by rushing our schools back to face to face school. Our community is still seeing surges in cases every time we get nice weather for a weekend! Rushing back to school can only delay a healthy return to normal! Please be responsible as you consider our options. A premature return to the class room (as it would be to return now) is a huge mistake!

A concerned paren
-Josh Adams

I'm writing to express my concern regarding sending kids back to school for in-person learning. My husband and I are not comfortable with the risk posed by in person learning, even with masks and precautions. If the district plans to resume classes this way, please consider continuing to provide an alternative for those who prefer to avoid the risk.

Becky McNeil

Comments must be received by the Board's Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Susie Golden, no later than 12:00pm the day of the scheduled meeting. Comments may be emailed to sgolden@wwps.org or delivered to:

Walla Walla Public Schools
Attn: Susie Golden
364 S Park St
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Citizen comments received must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Include the name and contact information of the citizen.
- Keep comments brief and to the point (e.g. that can be communicated within a **three-minute time limit.**)
- Do not reflect adversely on the political or economic view, ethnic background, character, or motives of any individual.
- If you have a specific complaint about an individual employee, it must be addressed through the Superintendent's office and not in this setting.



Risk Key:

High
Medium
Low

			September 12– September 25, 2020							
			14 Day Date Range							
Geographic Area	Population	Case Cutoff	7/26 to 8/8	8/2 to 8/15	8/9 to 8/22	8/16 to 8/29	8/23 to 9/5/20	8/30 to 9/12/20	9/5 to 9/18/20	9/12 to 9/25
Walla Walla Co.	62,580	46	192	214	154	129	101	68	77	73
Walla Walla	44,650	35	95	81	66	81	66	52	56	46
College Place	9,780	7	25	21	16	13	12	7	13	19
Waitsburg	1,240	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Prescott	330	0	5	2	4	4	2	1	1	2
Touchet	407	0	2	3	5	2	1	1	0	0
Burbank	3378	3	5	8	9	5	2	2	4	4
Dixie	495	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
WA St. Penitentiary	2300	NA	59	99	53	23	17	4	3	1

COVID-19 Cases in Children

Ages	# of Cases since March 21, 2020
0 to 4 years	7
5 to 11 years	20
12 to 14 years	19
15 to 18 years	49
Total	95

Trends in Transmission:

Correctional Facility	1
Household	14
Long Term Care	5
Workplace	14
Travel out of county	1
Social	19
Unknown/other	19
Total	73

Decision Tree for Provision of in Person Learning among Public and Private K-12 Students during COVID-19

Should your community provide in person learning and for whom?

For School Administrators, Local Health Officers, and Community Stakeholders

The risk of COVID-19 being introduced into the school depends on the level of COVID-19 spread in the community and the health and safety measures taken by schools. Consider the following educational modalities based on community transmission and other health and education risks and benefits.

COVID-19 Activity Level	Education Modality*	Extracurricular
HIGH >75 cases/100K/14 days Other considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing trend in cases or hospitalizations Test positivity >5% Other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families 	Strongly recommend distance learning with the option for limited in-person learning in small groups, or cohorts, of students for the highest need students, such as students with disabilities, students living homeless, those farthest from educational justice, and younger learners.	Strongly recommend canceling or postponing all in person extra-curricular activities, including sports, performances, clubs, events, etc.
MODERATE 25–75 cases/100K/14 days Other considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing trend in cases or hospitalizations Test positivity >5% Other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families 	Recommend distance learning as described above. In addition, consider expanding in person learning to elementary students. Over time, consider adding hybrid in person learning for middle or high school students if limited COVID transmission occurs in schools.	Strongly recommend canceling or postponing all in-person extra-curricular activities. Consider low risk activities when all students have some level of in person learning.
LOW <25 cases/100K/14 days	Encourage full-time in person learning for all elementary students and hybrid learning for middle and high school. Over time and if physical space allows, consider full-time in person learning for middle and high school.	Consider low and moderate risk in person extra-curricular activities.

When any in-person



Can the school(s) implement recommended COVID-19 health and safety measures?

For School Administrators and Staff

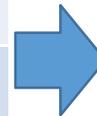
The risk of COVID-19 spreading in schools depends on the ability of the school to implement [DOH's K-12 health and safety measures](#).

Does the school have the plans, staff, space, and supplies to do the following?

✓	Protect staff and students at higher risk for severe COVID-19 while ensuring access to learning
✓	Transport or facilitate drop-off and pick-up of students
✓	Group students (required in elementary, recommended for middle and high school)
✓	Practice physical distancing of ≥6 feet among students and staff.
✓	Promote frequent hand washing or sanitizing
✓	Promote and ensure face covering use among students and staff
✓	Increase cleaning and disinfection
✓	Improve ventilation

Are all staff trained on health and safety practices?

When all YES



Is the school and health system ready to monitor for and respond to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19?

For Schools and Local Public Health

COVID-19 cases in the school should be expected. The risk of COVID-19 spreading in schools depends on the ability to quickly identify and respond to suspected and confirmed cases and the level of community transmission.

✓	Can <u>the school</u> ensure monitoring of symptoms and history of exposure among students and staff? (attestation acceptable)
✓	Is <u>the school</u> prepared to manage students and/or staff who get sick onsite?
✓	Does <u>the school</u> have letters drafted to inform families and staff about confirmed cases or outbreaks?
✓	Is there adequate access to testing in the community <u>health</u> system for ill students and staff?
✓	Is there capacity in your <u>local health department</u> to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts and assess whether transmission is occurring in the school?
✓	Can <u>local public health</u> monitor the level of community spread to determine when a change in education modality is needed?



When all YES

Begin in Person Learning Model and Monitor

Staff may work in school at any COVID-19 activity level if the school follows DOH and LNI health and safety guidance

Walla Walla Public Schools

2020-21 Roadmap to Safely Reopening Schools

Stages (Red through Blue)	Possible Community Assessment Indicators	School Delivery Models
 <p>Walla Walla Public Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible vaccine or herd immunity conditions met • State or local guidance permits full school reopening • District’s ability to successfully control school-related spread of virus in Green Phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full day experience for all students with continued safety and cleaning measures
 <p>Walla Walla Public Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local viral trends improve, revealing a lower level of community transmission and other associated health indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e.g. <50 cases/100K/14 days (<30 cases/WW County/14 days)*, stable or decreasing hospitalization rate, stable or decreasing test positivity rate ○ District’s ability to successfully control school-related spread of virus in Yellow Phase ○ Consult with local health officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PK-12th Grade: AM/PM Hybrid Learning • Full-day experience for specific special education, English Language and opportunity/performance gap students • Comprehensive cleaning, screening and safety measures
 <p>Walla Walla Public Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral trends stabilize, signified by a moderate level of community transmission and other associated health indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e.g. 50-75 cases/100K/14 days (30-45 cases/WW County/14 days)*, stable hospitalization rate, stable test positivity rate ○ District’s ability to successfully control school-related spread of virus in Orange Phase ○ Consult with local health officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Distance Learning 2.0 for 3rd-12th grade students • PK-2nd Grade: AM/PM Hybrid Learning and full day experience for specific special education, English Language and opportunity/performance gap students • Comprehensive cleaning, screening and safety measures
<p style="text-align: center;">Fall 2020</p>  <p>Walla Walla Public Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral trends continue to demonstrate a high level of community transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e.g. >75 cases/100K/14 days (>45 cases/WW County/14 days)* ○ Consult with local health officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Distance Learning 2.0 for most students • Students in self-contained programs (e.g. STEP, Life Skills, DD, RISE, Behavior, Preschool Sped) served full day or part day on-site in small cohorts (5 students or fewer) • SEATech Skills Center and limited CTE/Visual Arts student lab hours permitted for specific courses (5 students or fewer per room) • Teachers/staff in building to deliver D.L. 2.0 • TK/KG orientation week (Sep 8-11). Individual parent-student-teacher conference • Comprehensive cleaning, screening and safety measures
 <p>Walla Walla Public Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral trends deteriorate, signified by a high level of community transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ e.g. >450 cases/100K/14 days (>270 cases/WW County/14 days)* ○ Consult with local health officials ○ State or local officials or health authority recommends limiting all building access for safety reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Distance Learning 2.0 for all students • Buildings closed to students and most staff

*Case counts are based on Wa DOH guidance and will be used as a guide to inform district decisions on stage movement. Community-level analysis of case counts and individual circumstances will be reviewed and considered to ensure county counts accurately reflect community transmission rates (e.g. industrial facilities, penitentiary and outlying communities may skew local community transmission data).

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) IS ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE WALLA WALLA VALLEY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (“ASSOCIATION”) AND THE WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT (“DISTRICT”).

1. Purpose of MOU

Both parties recognize that COVID-19 continues to create a public health emergency and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has issued requirements for the 2020-2021 school year that substantially affect hours and working conditions of Association members. The parties agree to the following:

2. WWPS Roadmap to Safely Reopening Schools Plan

- a. The Association and District agree to the Appendix A: Roadmap to Safely Reopening Schools Plan, that outlines proposed community assessment indicators that would trigger the district’s movement through stages. Case counts are based on preliminary Washington State Department of Health guidance and will be used as a guide to inform district decisions. Community-level analysis of case counts and individual circumstances will be reviewed and analyzed to ensure county counts accurately reflect community transmission rates (e.g. prison, Burbank industrial plants, and others cases may skew community transmission circumstances).
- b. When considering moving up or down stages, the Superintendent will consult with the Association. The superintendent retains final authority when case count is within the metrics of the agreed upon roadmap.

3. Work Assignments and Conditions

a. Elementary Working Conditions

(i) When an elementary certificated instructional staff is delivering instruction under the District’s Comprehensive Distance Learning 2.0 Program, staff assignments will be based on the following workday schedules. All elementary instructional staff will receive an average of 420 min of prep per week.