

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Regular Study Meeting - 5:30 PM**  
**February 4, 2025**  
**364 S Park St**  
**Walla Walla, WA 99362**

Individuals with disabilities and those individuals who may have difficulty attending a board meeting due to issues such as mobility limitations may contact the superintendent’s office at 509-526-6715 no later than three days before a regular meeting and as soon as possible in advance of a special meeting so the district can arrange for them to participate.

Spanish Agenda / Agenda Española: <https://www.wgps.org/district/information/school-board/board-meeting-schedule>

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** (5:30 p.m.) *Ruth Ladderud*

**II. FLAG SALUTE:** *Ari Kim-Leavitt*

**III. ROLL CALL:**

- Derek Sarley, President
- Ruth Ladderud, Vice President
- Alayna Brinton
- Kathy Mulkerin
- Terri Trick
- Eva Maxwell, Student Representative
- Ari Kim-Leavitt, Student Representative

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Ruth Ladderud*

**V. STUDY ITEMS:** (5:35 p.m.) *Ruth Ladderud*

1. Legislative Update: *Marie Sullivan* 2
2. Superintendent Search Update: *Ruth Ladderud*
3. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation MOU: *Christy Krutulis & Jaimie Crane* 10

**VI. ADJOURNMENT:** (7:00 p.m.) *Ruth Ladderud*

# 2025 Legislative Session Update

Marie Sullivan | February 4, 2025



## New Faces, Budget Shortfall, Lots of Bills

- 30+ new legislators in the House and Senate
- New Governor - and new policy advisers and cabinet leaders
- New Commissioner of Public Lands (trust lands/school construction responsibility) - and his new team
- Projected \$10B to \$12B shortfall over four years
- More than 650 bills introduced in the Senate and nearly 840 in the House

# The Big 3: Making Progress

## Senate

- **SB 5187 - Student Transportation**
  - \$25.6M in 2025-27 (McKinney-Vento students)
- **SB 5192 - MSOC increase**
  - \$298M in 2025-27
- **SB 5263 - Special Education**
  - ~\$1.3 billion in 2025-27

## House

- **HB 1310 and HB 1357 - Special Education**
  - \$1.5B and \$153M
- **HB 1338 - MSOC**
  - \$693.4M and then \$805.1M
- **HB 1579 - Student Transportation**
  - \$25.6M (McKinney Vento students)



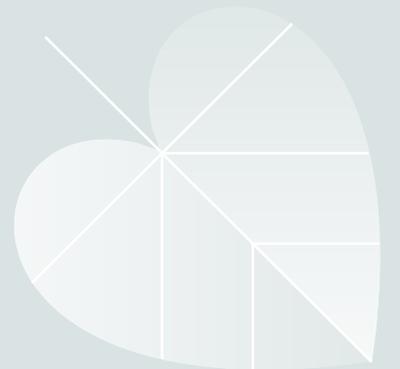
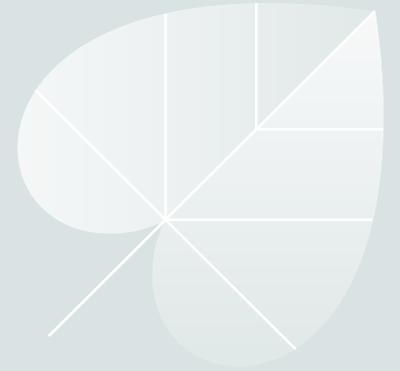
## Legislative Priorities: \$3.2M for SEATech expansion

- 3,500 square feet for the Criminal Justice Program
- \$2,500 for a Careers in Education<sup>5</sup> Program
- Support from Reps. Skyler Rude and Mark Klicker
- Continuing to share the budget request with other legislators and lots of interest.

# Transition to Kindergarten

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- New bill - HB 1450 (bill as it passed the House in 2023)
- Forecast from the 2023-25 operating budget didn't keep pace with TTK enrollment in FY25 (about \$40M shortfall)
- Concern by House budget chair and others to limit enrollment growth in TTK
- Senate also concerned about making sure growth is in areas where no other options or blends with existing ECEAP and private pay childcare and non-profit preschool



# Other Bills on the Watch List

Simple Majority and 55% vote to  
pass school bonds

Changes to Levies and LEA

*And keeping an eye on:*

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Unfunded mandates

New School Year Requirements

Issues that could affect operations at  
WWPS or require Board action

Only Week 4 –  
long way to go  
before April 27





# Questions?

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Marie Sullivan

[marie@mpublicaffairs.com](mailto:marie@mpublicaffairs.com)



# Partnering with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 4, 2025

Christy Krutulis and Jaimie Crane (CTUIR Director of Education)



**Walla Walla Public Schools**

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

# Land Acknowledgement

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## Cayuse, Walla Walla, and Umatilla



# Purpose of Tribal Consultation

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- The purpose of Tribal Consultation is to ensure that Tribal governments or representatives and state or federal education agencies have meaningful opportunities to provide input, feedback, and recommendations on education policies, programs, and services that impact the success of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students. This includes but is not limited to, curriculum development, teacher training, student assessment, special education, language, and cultural preservation.
- Tribal consultation is a crucial component of ensuring that AI/AN students receive a high-quality education that is responsive to their cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and that respects their sovereignty and self-determination as Indigenous peoples. During Tribal Consultation, state and federal education agencies must engage in a government-to-government relationship with Tribal governments. This means that education agencies must respect and consider the unique cultural, linguistic, and educational needs of AI/AN students, families, and communities.
- Tribal Consultation is a legal obligation imposed on state and federal agencies under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
  - OSPI Tribal Consultation Webpage <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/native-education/tribal-consultation>

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# Importance of an MOU with CTUIR

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- Academic progress of Native students has been linked to culturally appropriate curricula that stress the distinctive features of each community.
- Leverages tribal input and the incorporation of local context when addressing state-required Since Time Immemorial civics curriculum.
- Enhances opportunities for our students and families to learn more about our local Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).
- Recognizes the land on which our schools district is located.
- Helps to provide relevant, localized information when addressing required staff development and training (e.g. Government-to-Government Training for administrators).

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# Timeline of Partnership

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- 2015 Legislation
- 2019 leveraged Whitman invitation to connect with CTUIR education team
- COVID Hiatus
- Fall 2022 re-established partnership and began working on establishing an MOU
  - Drumming, dancing, storytelling presentation for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7th graders
- Spring 2023 first draft of MOU
  - Change in leadership in CTUIR education department
- Fall 2024 final draft available for WWPS Board of Directors to consider
  - Drumming, dancing, storytelling 4th and 7th

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# Timeline of our MOU with CTUIR

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- Leveraging our partnership with Whitman, we first connected with the education director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in the fall of 2019. This initial connection was to learn about the lessons the tribe was creating in response to the Since Time Immemorial Tribal Sovereignty legislation from 2015 requiring school districts to incorporate lessons about the history, culture and government of their nearest federally recognized Indian tribe when social studies materials are reviewed or adopted. At the time of our visit in 2019, CTUIR was still in the process of developing lessons and had suggested we connect the following fall. COVID then impacted their planning.
- As we reconnected with CTUIR following COVID, in the fall of 2022, we also had a parent approach us with suggestions for ways to enhance our partnership and provide our students, families and Walla Walla community with a deeper understanding of the history of our local tribe. We reached out to the director of education about these offerings to ensure we were partnering in a way that aligned with the CTUIR processes. This is when the MOU conversation started.
- In the fall of 2022 we began the process of developing the MOU. CTUIR's MOU template was designed for when there are a significant number of Native American students. We worked with the director of education to make initial suggestions for revisions that fall. The next revision came in June of 2023. Over the last year, there have been several weather and tribal events that have delayed the process, as well as a change in leadership in the CTUIR education department. Thus, since spring of 2023 we have been working on steps to finalize an MOU proposal through their internal review process that we could finalize.
- We now have a final draft MOU from CTUIR for review and approval.

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

**and**

**Walla Walla Public Schools**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Walla Walla Public Schools (District) shall work together to address the educational needs, issues and challenges of Native American students in order to increase their academic achievement and success. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will also support appropriate educational services and opportunities for all students, educators and members of the CTUIR. This MOU has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Walla Walla Public Schools. Each party named shall follow the intent of this MOU so far as reasonably possible, and consistent with applicable State, Tribal and Federal constitutions, laws, statutes, educational acts, and treaties.

This MOU is not legally binding on either party, nor is it a contract. However, should any oral or written materials result from implementation of this MOU, CTUIR shall retain any and all ownership rights to information and/or products that may be published, disclosed, distributed, or otherwise utilized in developing and implementing CTUIR history and cultural curriculum; culturally responsive pedagogy training materials; systems of review; or other materials created with the intention that they will be provided to students or educators at the District schools.

The CTUIR and the District agree to work collaboratively through this MOU in the following areas:

1. To encourage Native American students to achieve academic excellence and to identify and address barriers that keep them from progressing toward that goal.
2. To ensure equal access and participation in all school programs and/or activities and clubs for Native American students at every grade level and to promote and acknowledge the month of November as Native American Heritage Month.
3. To collaboratively develop and implement a CTUIR history and cultural curriculum to be provided to all students at all District schools.
4. To foster opportunities by integrating CTUIR Tribal language into the learning environment.

5. To ensure that the CTUIR has a voice in District decisions affecting their children, including establishing a system of review for proposed curriculum, text, or other materials to ensure suitability for Native American students.

6. To develop programs and services that foster an increase in high school graduation rates and to promote college and career readiness for Native American students.

7. To work toward the elimination of discrimination in all aspects.

8. To have CTUIR aid the District in the design and delivery of culturally responsive pedagogy training materials and professional development which may assist the District in meeting the unique needs of Native American students within the District.

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9. To educate all students in the history and culture of the CTUIR, CTUIR will foster access to, and assist in vetting, materials for use.

10. To acknowledge the cultural significance of Tribal regalia within participation of formal District ceremonies.

# Next Steps

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- WWPS Board approves MOU recommendation at upcoming Business Meeting (Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Consent Agenda)
- MOU presented to the CTUIR Education and Training Committee who will review and recommend approval
- Final MOU presented to the CTUIR Board of Trustees for formal signing
  - Formal signing to occur in CTUIR Board Chambers (estimated March)
    - District representatives, news media, dignitaries typically in attendance

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# Questions

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