Walla Walla Public Schools
364 S. Park Street • Walla Walla, WA 99362 • (509) 527-3000 • www.wwps.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Regular Study Meeting - 5:30 PM
February 3, 2026
364 S Park St
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Watch live: https://wwps-org.zoom.us/j/98838590100
Listen: Dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter the Webinar ID: 988 3859 0100
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.wwps.org/district/information/school-board/board-meeting-schedule

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *(5:30 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*
II. **FLAG SALUTE:** *Abril Salazar*
III. **ROLL CALL:**
- Alayna Brinton, President
- Kathy Mulkerin, Vice President
- Elizabeth Alonso-Barrientos
- Ruth Ladderud
- Derek Sarley
- Ari Kim-Leavitt, Student Representative
- Abril Salazar, Student Representative

IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *Alayna Brinton*
V. **STUDY ITEMS:** *(5:35 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*
1. Legislative Update: *Marie Sullivan* 2
VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** *(7:00 p.m.) Alayna Brinton*

The Walla Walla School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.



Walla Walla Public Schools

Work Session: Marie Sullivan, marie@mspublicaffairs.com

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

What has WWPS been working on in the past - Thank You!

- $95,000 for coordinator to help establish the WWCCF (2020)
  - Included in Governor Inslee's budget
  - Supported hiring Samantha Bowen to create the structure prior to launch
- $285,000 for WWCCF capital (EL grants) in 2025; $55,000 in 2021
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) - 2023
  - Prior to and then HB 1550 (Santos)
  - Fending off challenges, helping set the tone
  - Positioned WWPS as the model and resource with legislators
- Experience Factor bill (2024), mitigating the impact and loss of funding (2023 – 2% not 0)
- Killed SB 5780 – EV bus depreciation bill (2025)
- Visits and conversations
  - 2018, 2019 – WWPS briefed House and Senate capital budget leaders about needs
  - House Education tour and visit 2024
  - Senate Education chair visit 2025
  - Rep. Steve Bergquist, visits and calls
- WWPS is "at the table" on discussions

2026 Legislative Session Reminders

60 Day Session

(23 days down!)

Starts January 12, ends March 12

All bills from 2025 are "eligible" to run in 2026 – subject to "cutoffs"

Budget constraints, more cuts possible – new investments will be difficult

School districts need to continue to advocate for their priorities – regardless of the budget situation

Capital budget has some capacity but still tough to get money that isn't in a "bucket"

Composition of the Legislature

Senate and House Democratic Majorities

- Senate Ds: 30-19 – supermajority for Democrats
- House Ds: 59-39 – supermajority for Democrats

30+ new legislators in 2025 of 147 total (includes House members that moved to Senate)

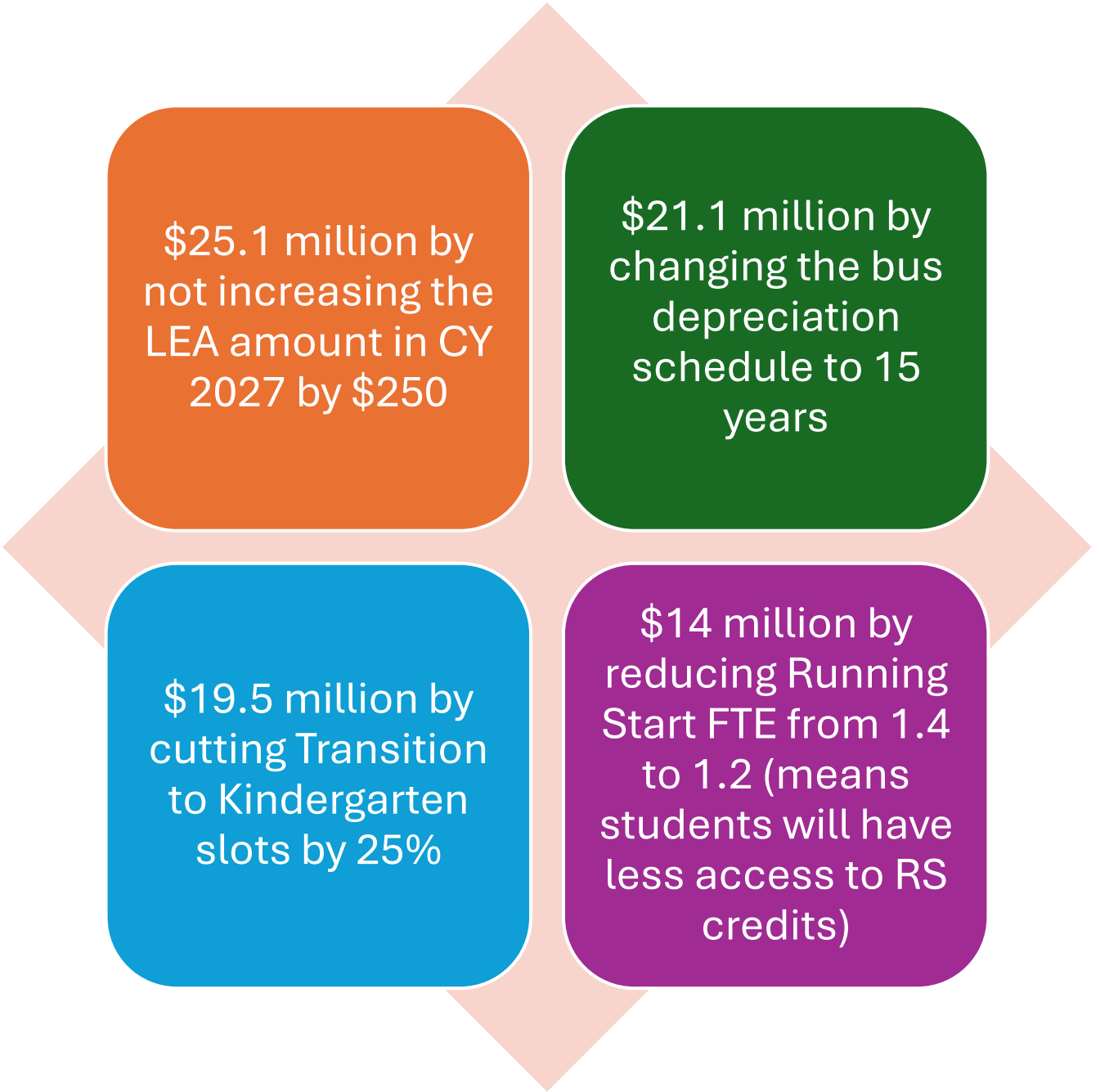
42.8% of the legislature is NEW since the 2020 election.

Only 14 legislators were around when the prototypical schools funding model was adopted in 2009; and nearly 60% (86) are new since the McCleary “fix” was adopted in 2017.

Reminder about Big 3 actions in 2025

- Special education - $331 million for 2025-27
  - Removed the cap on enrollment of special education students
  - Increased and simplified the multiplier of the Basic Education rate
  - Decreased the threshold to reach the safety net
- MSOC - $78.89 million over two years - $81.26 per student increase ($35.99 new plus inflation factor)
- Zero movement on transportation AND lost $13 million/year special passengers

Gov. Ferguson: Supp. Operating Budget - **Would Reduce** K12 by $94M for “savings” to General Fund



TTK Budget Challenges

- 25% cut to TTK across all districts = equal cuts would result in loss of 22 students
- Unclear how the 25% would be applied
- Friday learned about concepts Senate is considering to preserve the current level of slots, possibly grow, but allowing the 25% cut
- Stakeholders: WEA, WWPS, EWQSC, WASA, WSSDA, Early Learning lobbyist
- Meeting Friday to discuss concepts

MSOC, Transportation, Local Effort Assistance (LEA)

MSOC/Transportation

- HB 2147/**SB 5918** – Increases MSOC by $100/student or $100,000, whichever is greater.
- SB 5858 – restores the special passengers safety net program for students who are homeless, in the foster care system, or students with disabilities.
- Other MSOC bills have been introduced too, unlikely to get hearings this session

LEA

- HB 2116 – would put the levy equalization/Local Effort Assistance (LEA) increases into statute and raises levy and LEA rates to $5,035 per student by CY 2032. Hearing Feb. 5th in House APP.
- HB 2562 – would put LEA into statute; $3,838.26 state LEA threshold in subsection (2)(e)(i) corresponds to the 2026 max per pupil levy limit under RCW 84.52.0531, which would increase beginning in 2027. In 2031, the state local effort assistance threshold in subsection (2)(e)(ii) is set at $5,035, aligning with RCW 84.52.0531.
- HB 2580 – would increase LEA by $400 per student

Fixes to last session's SB 5814 – sales tax extension

- Drafted language that I've sent to the House and Senate Finance leads
  - Focused on exemption for temporary staffing and live presentations
- Hearing that both House and Senate may try to provide some relief to school districts
- Depends on how much it will "cost" the state to offer exemptions

SEATech Capital Budget request: $3.2M

Fully supported by Senator Perry Dozier, and Reps. Skyler Rude and Mark Klicker – from 16th

Submitted by Jerry and Ben January 23rd

Heard from Dozier they left about $400 million in bond capacity for the 2026 supplemental

- Trying to increase the Small District Modernization Grant program
- Looking at what the Governor proposed for OSPI and all agencies
- $2.5 million for lead in drinking water (additional)
- After the main investments, sounds like left with about $93 million for these types of requests

Also heard from Dozier that their “maximum” request can be $300,000

- He also has a request that’s over that for Pasco



Questions?