



Community Connections

For our children, our community, our world, our future

Important dates:

February 16
Preschool Policy
Council
Betz Portable A2
4:00 pm

February 20
President's Day
No School

February 22
School Board Meeting
Sunset Elementary
11:00 AM

February 25
District Honor Band
Festival Concert
CHS Auditorium
2:00 PM

March 8
School Board Meeting
CHS Library
6:00 pm

March 9-10
School Conferences
No School

March 22
School Board Meeting
Cheney Middle
School
4:00 PM

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

In the December school board meeting, our school directors adopted district legislative priorities for the 2022-23 session. These priorities provide a focus for our advocacy during this legislative session. Often during a legislative session, hundreds of education bills are 'dropped' or introduced. Superintendents in our region, including myself, testify on the impact of these bills and an important reminder is that there are no 'free' bills, meaning, every bill whether it has a budgetary note or not, requires staffing to implement. Just this year, school districts across our state are required to implement at least ten *new* bills that came into effect *this* school year from previous sessions.

At the end of January, Assistant Superintendent Tom Arlt, Finance Director Jamie Reed, and I went to Olympia to meet with legislators and share our school district priorities. Over a day and a half was spent meeting with 11 legislators and two senators sharing the need to better fund Special Education and more locally, provide safe walk routes to school by funding sidewalks for Snowdon. Currently, in Special Education, the district spends over \$2.1 million out of our local levy (i.e. not funded by the state) to best serve our students. Mr. Arlt, Mrs. Reed, and I are optimistic that better funding models could happen during this session.

We also had a meeting with Representative Mike Volz, one of our legislators in the 6th district, and he took interest in potentially helping with sidewalks around Snowdon elementary. His assistant has reached out to Mrs. Reed and we are currently filling out proposals that will ultimately be decided by the transportation department. We appreciate the willingness to reach out and show support at the local level.

In late February, the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) hosts "A Day on the Hill" where school board directors across the state go to Olympia for a day and a half to learn more about the legislative processes. We have a team of five scheduled to go: Director Henry Browne, Director Zachary Zorroza, Student Advisor to the Board Zach Cox, Assistant Superintendent Tom Arlt, and myself. I look forward to the trip and learning more while we continue to advocate for Cheney Public Schools!

The school board adopted legislative priorities are attached and you are more than welcome to reach out to our legislators in the 6th district—Representative Mike Volz, Representative Jenny Graham, and Senator Jeff Holy—to share your thoughts. Another way to support and be active in our school district is to complete the Thought Exchange survey that is seeking input on budget priorities. The link to the Thought Exchange is here: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/196788906>. We wish you the best and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Ben Ferney, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cheney Public Schools

Our essential foundations

- ★ High Expectations and Continuous Progress
- ★ Involvement and Engagement with School District Community
- ★ Stewardship and Planning

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Character Trait for February

Honesty

Sincerity and reverence or love for the truth.

February 2023

Salnave Kindness Crew Presents to School Board

The Salnave Kindness Crew, a team of students dedicated to spreading a message of kindness at Salnave, presented their work to the Cheney School Board of Directors on February 8th. So far this year they have caught 535 acts of kindness. Each act is recorded with a paper chain link in a kindness paper chain that is displayed on the school walls. Board members were invited to start their own kindness chains.

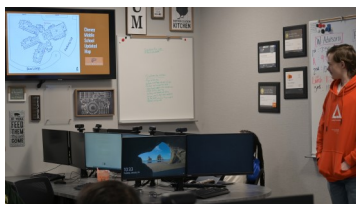


Top: Kindness Crew presents their work to the board.

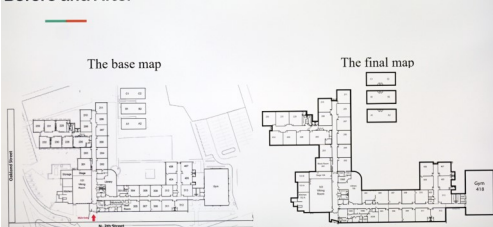
Left: Kindness crew speaking to Director Mark Scott

Project Management Class Designs New School Maps

Cheney High School's project management class was hard at work over the winter on a project to assist the schools of the district with developing new campus maps for emergency planning purposes. The class was split into multiple teams that took on a school. Students reviewed the existing maps and then met with stakeholders for their assigned school site. Often this meant meeting with the principal, assistant principal, and YES Officer Pat Carbaugh. Students toured the school sites, learned the evacuation routes, and took notes of discrepancies between existing maps and buildings.



Before and After



Students took this information back to their project group and began to refine their school's map. Each team had one member who was their designer—these designers had completed another CTE course called Digital Design. The designers had the essential task of drawing the new maps using Adobe Suite software.

On January 24 the students presented their work, from inception to delivery for the new school maps, each group produced a standard school map and an evacuation map. The groups presented to District Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning Kim Lefler, Principal Brett Hale, and YES Officer Pat Carbaugh. The presentations highlighted improvements made to the maps and the process for creating the new maps. Students celebrated the completion of the project with a class pizza party.

Top: Student presents the updated CMS Map.

Middle: Before and after views of the Betz Elementary Map.

Bottom: Class Photo with Evaluators.



FBLA Club Successful at NE Regional Winter Conference

The Cheney FBLA Club had a great 2023 Northeast Regional Winter Conference. The Cheney Club had 32 of its 38 attending members place in the top six and qualify for the FBLA State Leadership Conference. As a team, members placed top six 96 times in the competition. Students who place top six are eligible to compete at the State Business Leadership Conference on April 20-23 in Spokane. Of the 96 different times that we placed, Cheney FBLA had 24 first-place finishes and 17 second-place finishes.

Qualifiers are headed to the state conference and students who place top 4 in the state qualify to attend the national conference June 25-July 2 in Atlanta. This regional event was held at Cheney High School and was attended by 18 different local high schools with 350 students in attendance.



Photo Highlights of Spirit Games

L-R, Top to Bottom: Unified Game, Band, Spirit Performance, Boys Game, Girls Game, Cheer Team



Cheney Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, economic status, pregnancy, familial status, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination.

Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 Officer/
Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator/ADA Coordinator
Tom Arlt, Assistant Superintendent
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4550
Section 504 Coordinator
Franklin Day, Director, Student Support Services
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4507
Requests for Disclosure of Public Records
Helen Page, Public Records Officer
Cheney School District, 12414 S. Andrus Rd.,
Cheney, WA 99004 Phone: (509) 559-4502



CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2022-2023

CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS

Assessed Valuation \$7,125,724,430

Total Employees 683

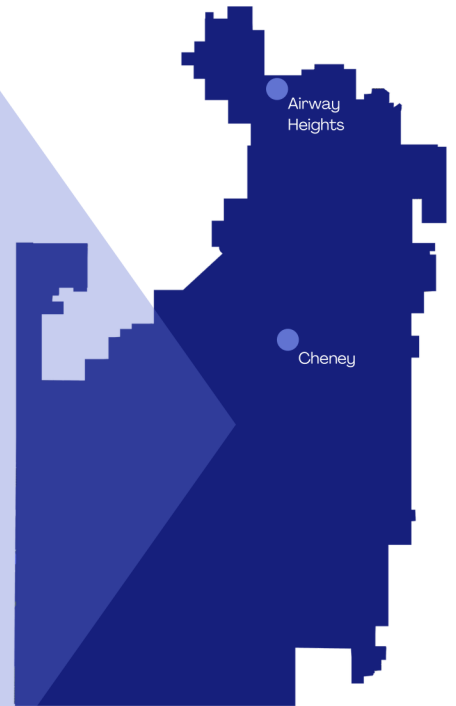
District Wide Student Enrollment FTE 5,159.38

Square Mileage of the District 381 sq. miles

Free and Reduced Meal Percentage 48.9%

Miles Driven by District Busses Last Year 775,831

Total Budget \$82 million



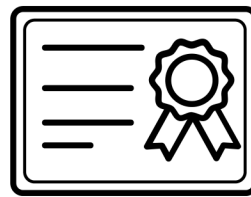
CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEGISLATIVE ASKS



Improve Safe
Walking Routes to
Schools



Revisit Policy 3241,
Student Discipline



Properly Fund
Paraeducator
Certification or
Pause/Eliminate
Requirements



Increase
Substitute Funding
Rate



CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2022-2023

Prototypical Formula

Certificated FTE	State Funded	Actual	Difference
Teachers	223.256	304.397	-81.141
Librarians	6.135	5.000	1.135
Counselors	11.460	18.000	-6.540
Nurses	2.740	7.000	-4.260
Social Workers	1.025	0.000	1.025
Psychologists	0.357	3.544	-3.187
LAP Funding	15.015	15.000	0.015
LAP High Poverty	4.464	4.000	0.464
Highly Capable	1.501	1.500	0.001
Transitional Bilingual	4.244	7.970	-3.726
CTE High School	22.434	15.450	6.984
CTE Middle School	4.976	4.000	0.976
Total Certificated FTE	297.607	377.891	-88.254
Admin Staff			
School Generated + CTE	15.712	21.6	-5.888
Central Admin	4.349	7	-2.651
Total Admin FTE	20.061	28.6	-8.539
Classified Staff			
School Generated + CTE	59.954	135.620	-75.666
Facilities	7.888	13.970	-6.082
Warehouse	1.444	0.000	1.444
Technology	2.732	4.000	-1.268
Central Office	12.726	17.000	-4.274
Total Classified FTE	84.744	170.590	-85.846
Total FTE	402.412	577.081	-182.639

Solution: Use the Staffing Enrichment Workgroups Recommendations and Begin the Phase in Plan to Update the Prototypical School Formula.

SEBB

Employees Funded For SEBB	402.412
Actual Employees Enrolled in SEBB	605
Monthly SEBB Cost Above Allocation	\$ 207,855.29
Annual SEBB Cost Above Allocation	\$ 2,494,263.46

Solution: Improve the prototypical school formula

Levies and Bonds

	2022 Tax Rate	Per Pupil Amount
EP&O Levy*	\$ 1.5842	\$ 1,686.25
Capital Levy	\$ 0.0904	\$ 96.91
Bonds	\$ 1.8975	\$ 2,017.88
Total	\$ 3.5721	

*Max Allowable EP&O Levy Rate is \$2.50 or \$2,500

Solution: Simple majority on bond issuances. Keep the levy rules consistent so districts can plan.

Special Education

District Wide Enrollment FTE	5,159.38
Special Education Enrollment K-12	907.44
Special Education Enrollment %	17.59%
Students Funded Under Special Education 13.5% Max	696.52
Special Education Funding Received 21-22	\$ 9,423,219.59
Special Education Expenses 21-22	\$ 11,582,189.12
Special Education Funding Deficit 21-22	(-) \$ 2,158,969.53

Solution: Continue to look at the multiplier and the maximum percentage of students funded.