



Charge for the Bilingual Education Recommendation Committee (BERC)

1. Overview: The Board of Education (BOE) directs the Superintendent to establish a “Bilingual Education Recommendation Committee (BERC),” comprised of 12 current elementary school parents (3 representing each bilingual program campus), 2 middle school parents, 4 elementary bilingual teachers from the 2015-16 Bilingual Steering Team, 2 elementary single-strand English only teachers, 2 middle school teachers from the 2015-16 Bilingual Steering Team, 1 high school teacher, 2 elementary principals, 1 middle school principal, the Pre-school Director, 2 school board representatives (non-voting), the Bilingual Coordinator, District Equity and Access Coordinator, the Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, and the Superintendent.

2. Type of Committee: Board sub-committee, reporting to the Board of Education (BOE).

3. Charge: Walla Walla Public School’s Board of Education requests the BERC to complete the work necessary to provide PreK-8 program recommendation to the BOE on February 21, 2017, to be considered for implementation beginning the 2017-18 school year. The Committee is tasked with the following charge:

- Review the history of the bilingual program in WWPS
- Review applicable state and federal laws, requirements, and mandates associated with bilingual education programs
- Review the current model being offered in Walla Walla Public Schools
- Review the outcomes, findings, and “White Paper” summary developed by the 2015-16 Bilingual Steering Team
- Perform additional study and research as may be required
- Provide multiple opportunities for parent, stakeholder, and staff input to inform program recommendation

The BOE charges the committee to use the following criteria in developing its recommendation. The committee’s recommendation: Must,

- be financially sustainable and programmatically feasible
- be research-based to best support the needs of English learner students
- ensure optimal learning environments for non-participating students

If feasible,

- attempt to capitalize on the opportunity to expose second language acquisition skills to native English language speakers

4. Authority: The committee will have no independent authority to obligate district funds. The committee is empowered to provide a recommendation to the BOE for consideration and implementation beginning the 2017-18 school year.

5. Staff Cooperation: The committee will work directly with the Executive Director for Teaching and Learning and Superintendent who will ensure necessary resources and personnel are made available to the committee.

6. Duration of Charge: The committee will convene in the month of September and meet regularly in order to fulfill its recommendation obligation by February 21, 2017. The committee is scheduled to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 4:30-6:00pm at the District Office Board Conference Room. Anticipated meeting dates are as follows: September 14th and 28th, October 12th and 26th, November 9th, December 14th, January 11th and 25th, and February 8th.

7. Parent Committee Appointments: Parent appointments will be made by the Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, stemming from applications received by committee member requestors, with an eye towards a diverse representation of stakeholders. Parent applications for membership will be available at each school site and are to be submitted to the District Office no later than 4pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Members will be notified no later than 4pm on Friday, September 9 of their application status. Should a member resign, or a replacement become necessary, a substitute may be appointed by the Executive Director from the pool of initial applicants.

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