



WAHKIAKUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 2025 Superintendent Report

Superintendent's Office

As we move into the new school year, I want to share how encouraged I feel by the progress we've made together so far. I am beginning to feel like I am truly getting my arms around both the district and our community. Over the past several weeks, I have taken the opportunity to reach out to and meet with several community groups. On August 15th, I hosted my first "Soup with the Supt." While I do not yet have the final attendance numbers at the time of this report, I am pleased to share that 21 people have already responded to my post-event survey. I look forward to providing the Board with a more detailed update on this event at our September meeting.

Building connections within our district staff has also been a priority. I recently met with our department heads for our first cabinet meeting. I asked the team to participate in a meeting survey, and I'd like to share a few of their insightful comments. One team member noted, "I thought the topic of the student being the center of each department was the most relevant." Another commented, "I liked the time spent sharing so we can truly get to know each other as a team—I think too often we think 'everyone knows everyone,' but that isn't always true. Thank you for being both an instructional and inspirational leader! The idea of developing a cabinet with departments encourages us to work collaboratively...walk the walk that we talk and work efficiently to best meet the needs of our students." Others appreciated our focus on the importance of coordination between the business office and other departments, improving communication, and professional development opportunities. Our discussion of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the role of performance reviews was also highlighted as especially relevant.

I am grateful for the openness and trust our team is showing as we work together to keep students at the center of every decision. I look forward to continuing to build these relationships, both internally and in the community, as we move forward into a successful year.

Superintendent's Travel Calendar

Date: July 21-22

Location: Olympia WA

Reason for travel: New and Incoming Superintendents Conference

Funding Source:

Date: July 29th

Location: ESD 112, Columbia Boardroom, 2500 NE 65th Avenue, Vancouver, WA



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Reason for travel: New Superintendent Orientation The orientation will be a time to meet our leadership team and briefly learn about ESD 112 services. Tim also hopes you will share your goals for the upcoming year and any assistance you might need.

Funding Source:

Date: February 12th-14th

Location: Nashville TN

Reason for travel: Superintendent's National Conference

Funding Source:

Legal Department

Introduction and Motion for Approval of the Omnibus Interlocal Agreement (MOA)

Tonight, the Wahkiakum School Board is being asked to consider and approve the Omnibus Interlocal Agreement (MOA) for Radio Unit Service. This agreement is a collaborative effort between Wahkiakum County and several local entities—including our school district, the Sheriff's Office, local fire departments, public works, and other emergency service providers—to ensure effective, reliable, and interoperable communication during emergencies.

The background of this initiative is rooted in the work of the Emergency Responders Radio group, a coalition that included our previous superintendent, Brent Freeman. This group was responsible for managing the radios used by various emergency responder organizations throughout the county. Through their efforts, and with the support of grant funding, radios were initially purchased and distributed to each participating entity at no cost to the district. The grant covered the full cost of the initial equipment, providing a strong foundation for county-wide emergency communication .

Recognizing the need for long-term sustainability, the Emergency Responders Radio group developed a comprehensive plan to maintain and eventually replace or upgrade this critical equipment. The sustainability plan requires each participating entity—including the Wahkiakum School District—to make a bi-annual payment of \$2,304.00. These funds are used to pay for insurance on the radios, ensuring they are protected against loss or damage, and to build a reserve fund. This reserve will be used for future replacement or upgrades of the radio equipment, ensuring that our emergency communication system remains current and reliable as technology evolves or equipment ages .

The MOA outlines the responsibilities of all parties. The County is responsible for purchasing, supplying, programming, and replacing radios, while each participating entity must use the equipment according to reasonable standards and comply with all applicable laws. The agreement also includes provisions for cost adjustments, withdrawal procedures, and indemnification to protect all parties involved .

Approving this MOA is in the best interest of the Wahkiakum School District. It ensures that our staff and students will continue to benefit from reliable communication during emergencies, which is essential for their



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safety and well-being. The financial commitment is both manageable and necessary for the continued operation and improvement of the radio system .

Summary of the MOA

- **Purpose:**
The MOA is designed to provide a unified, interoperable radio communication system for all emergency responders and participating entities in Wahkiakum County, including the school district. This ensures smooth, reliable communication during emergencies, which is critical for public safety .
- **Background:**
The Emergency Responders Radio group, with participation from former superintendent Brent Freeman, managed the acquisition and oversight of radios for all entities. The initial purchase of radios was funded by a grant, which covered all upfront costs .
- **Sustainability Plan:**
To maintain and eventually replace or upgrade the radio equipment, the group developed a sustainability plan. Each entity is required to make a bi-annual payment of \$2,304.00. This payment covers:
 - Insurance for the radios, protecting against loss or damage.
 - Building a reserve fund for future replacement or upgrades of the equipment .
- **Obligations:**
The Wahkiakum School District, as a signatory, will:
 - Make the required bi-annual payment.
 - Use and maintain the radio equipment according to the agreement.
 - Participate in the shared emergency communication system.
 - Comply with all terms, including indemnification and withdrawal procedures .
- **Benefits:**
 - Ensures the district's continued access to a reliable emergency communication system.
 - Promotes safety for students, staff, and the broader school community.
 - Shares costs and responsibilities equitably among all participating entities .



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Departmental Reports

Business Office

The 2025-2026 budget has been approved by the ESD and submitted to OSPI.

Square Update: Should be able to test and begin using before school starts.

Expenditures:

- General Fund: \$
- Capital Projects: \$
- HS ASB: \$
- Comp Tax: \$

Fund Balances:

- General Fund: \$1,656,559.93
- ASB: \$190,445.48
- Capital Projects: \$95,802.08
- Transportation: \$108,035.97

Human Resources

Staffing Count: 54

- Administrative - 3
- Certificated - 24
- District - 3
- Classified - 24

Open Positions:

- MS Head BBB Coach - not posted as yet
- HS BBB C Squad - not posted as yet
- HS Head Golf Coach - not posted as yet
- HS Asst. Secretary
- HS Food Service/Paraeducator - not posted as yet

Facilities/Maintenance



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Summary Report: Fritz Building Demolition Feasibility

Asbestos Survey Report

Subject: Asbestos Inspection Results and Demolition Options for the Fritz Building

Background:

The board asked me to explore options for the Fritz building on our Cathlamet property, including the possibility of demolishing the structure. As part of this process, an asbestos inspection was carried out to determine if there were any materials that could complicate demolition or make it too costly.

Inspection Results:

A certified professional inspected the Fritz building on August 8, 2025. The inspection included a thorough check of floors, walls, ceilings, insulation, and other materials. Out of 35 samples taken, only a small area was found to contain asbestos. This material is located on some of the ductwork in the crawlspace—about 110 square feet in total. All other areas of the building, including the flooring, walls, ceilings, and roof, did not contain asbestos.

Cost to Address Asbestos:

We received an estimate from an abatement contractor that the removal of the asbestos can be fully handled for less than \$7,000. This is a relatively low cost compared to what is often found in older buildings.

Impact on Demolition:

With asbestos limited to a small area and removal costs being reasonable, it is entirely feasible to move forward with demolishing the Fritz building. Once the asbestos is removed by a certified professional, we can apply for the required demolition permits and proceed with the project without major regulatory or financial hurdles.

Next Steps:

1. Contract a certified asbestos abatement company to remove the identified material.
2. Submit paperwork to the Southwest Clean Air Agency for both the asbestos removal and the notice of demolition.
3. Proceed with demolition once all required approvals are in place.

Conclusion:

The inspection found only a minimal amount of asbestos in the Fritz building, and the cost to safely remove it is under \$7,000. This makes demolition a practical and manageable option for the district. The board can now consider moving forward with the project, knowing there are no significant asbestos-related obstacles.

If you have any questions, or would like further details, please let me know.

Surplus Sale Update



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Following the initial disposal plan and the sale held on Saturday, August 16th, the district successfully completed the removal of surplus items from various campuses and buildings. Items with an estimated value exceeding \$100 were offered for sale through a sealed bid process, with bids accepted until 3:00 PM as planned. Prior to the sale, all damaged or valueless items were identified, separated, and properly disposed of in accordance with district policy.

The sealed bid sale was conducted transparently, ensuring that minimum prices were set for applicable items to maximize return to the district. All bids were documented and evaluated following established procedures under Policy 6881: Disposal of Surplus Equipment and/or Materials. The sale effectively cleared space by removing obsolete and unused items, aligning with the district's goal of efficient asset management.

A detailed post-sale report will be prepared, including an inventory of items sold, sale prices, and the disposition of unsold or disposed items. Proceeds from the sale will be accounted for separately in the district's financial records, ensuring compliance with recommended financial reporting practices and maintaining a clear audit trail. This report will also reference compliance with Policy 6881 and related procedures to demonstrate adherence to district and state requirements.

The district appreciates the cooperation of all involved staff and bidders in facilitating a smooth and compliant disposal process. Moving forward, the district will continue to monitor and update surplus property management practices to maintain transparency, accountability, and optimal use of district resources.

Transportation

No Report at this time

Athletics

The Wahkiakum coaches hosted their 3rd annual all-coaches meeting, a meeting designed to foster alignment and collaboration among the district's sports coaching staff. This meeting serves as an important platform to synchronize schedules, review district policies and recent changes, and discuss critical elements that contribute to the success of the sports programs. The meeting also covered essential operational topics to ensure smooth program management:

- *Goals, ASB Accounts/Budgets, Projected Needs:* Coaches reviewed their team goals and financial planning, including budgeting through Associated Student Body (ASB) accounts to maintain transparency and accountability.
- *Final Forms & Required Trainings:* Updates on compliance requirements, including necessary forms and annual training related to student safety and district policies, were provided.
- *Fundraising:* Strategies for effective fundraising were discussed, emphasizing community engagement and innovative approaches to support team needs.
- *Travel & Credit Cards:* Procedures for managing travel logistics and credit card use were reviewed to ensure fiscal responsibility and adherence to district policies.



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- *Rosters & All League:* Coaches coordinated on roster submissions and league participation to maintain eligibility and competitive standards.
- *Band App - Communication:* The use of the Band App as a centralized communication tool was highlighted, facilitating streamlined scheduling, attendance tracking, and parent-athlete engagement.

August 20th - HS Football Starts w/ Midnight Madness

August 21st - 9:00-12:00, HS New Student Orientation in WHS Gym

August 25th - HS/MS Cross Country, Volleyball, Cheer Practice Begins

Special Education

No Report at this time

Food Service

No Report at this time

Technology

No Report at this time

Site Reports

As the new school year approaches, our Wahkiakum principals are busy preparing for a smooth and successful start. Both principals are coordinating final preparations to welcome staff and students back. Teachers return on August 19th to engage in professional development, review curriculum updates, and ready their classrooms. Students will arrive on August 26th, greeted by a safe, organized, and welcoming environment focused on academic success and well-being. The principals are also emphasizing communication with families and staff to ensure everyone is informed and supported as the district embarks on another year of continuous improvement and student achievement.

August 26th - 1st Day of School (Doors open at 7:30 and school starts at 8:00.)

September 1st - No School - Labor Day Holiday

Legislative update

Alyssa's Law: Compliance Needs for Our District

Introduction

Alyssa's Law is a recently passed state law in Washington that requires all public and charter schools to improve their emergency response systems. The law is named after Alyssa Alhadeff, a student who lost her life



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in the 2018 Parkland, Florida school shooting. The goal of this law is to help schools respond faster during emergencies by making sure staff can quickly and quietly alert law enforcement.

What the Law Requires

Under Alyssa's Law, every school in our district must have at least one of these safety measures in place:

- **Silent Panic Button Systems:** Staff can instantly alert police or emergency teams with the push of a button.
- **Live Audio/Video Streaming:** First responders can see and hear what's happening in real time during a crisis.
- **Remote Door Locks:** Doors can be locked quickly to keep students and staff safe.
- **Two-Way Communication Systems:** Staff can communicate directly with emergency responders.

The law also requires our district to work closely with local police and 911 dispatch centers to ensure these systems are effective.

Deadlines and Reporting

- By **October 1, 2025**, our district must report to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) on our progress in installing these safety systems.
- OSPI will report statewide progress by **December 1, 2025**.

Funding and Challenges

The state has set up a grant program to help schools pay for these improvements, but the funding is limited. Many districts, including ours, may need to find additional resources to cover the full costs. Installing new security technology can be expensive and may require ongoing maintenance and training for staff.

Next Steps for the District

To comply with Alyssa's Law, our district should:

1. **Review Current Safety Systems:** See what we already have in place and what needs upgrading.
2. **Research Technology Solutions:** Find vendors who can provide compliant systems within our budget.
3. **Apply for Grants:** Seek available state funding as soon as possible.
4. **Plan for Staff Training:** Ensure everyone knows how to use the new systems.

Conclusion

Alyssa's Law sets important new standards for school safety. Our district needs to begin planning now to meet these requirements, keep our students and staff safe, and comply with state law. Regular updates will be provided as we make progress toward full compliance.