



# THE CHARGER

## Editorial | Virtual Spanish not an ideal solution

At the April board of education meeting a potential plan was presented for the vacant high school Spanish teacher position.

The current Spanish teacher, David Amer, submitted his resignation in February of this year. Amer has also been working as the mental health liaison in the district. The school district posted the open Spanish teacher position as part time and so far there have been no applicants, causing the board to look at alternative plans.

At the board meeting, superintendent Brad Starnes proposed offering the Spanish classes as a virtual Greenbush option.

“It’s relatively impossible to find someone for that part time position, so the plan moving forward is through virtual Greenbush which we have done before,” Starnes said.

Various members of our newspaper staff and other seniors in the school experienced a virtual Spanish format in freshman year after the foreign language teacher, Rachel Cox, resigned during the summer.

That situation was different, as the school district was in a pinch and didn’t have much time to fill the position. The virtual format only lasted a couple of weeks before Kathy Hendricks, a retired foreign language teacher, was hired to fill the vacancy. Hendricks only taught for the first semester before the current Spanish teacher, David Amer, was hired.

Some of us had experienced virtual learning even before COVID-19 shut the world down. The format can work for some classes that are small in size, but Spanish is a popular class. When class sizes are big, having a person actually present in the room is key in keeping everyone focused. It’s often hard to control an environment over zoom to ensure work is being done. Pronunciation and conversation is also key for Spanish and that is hard to work on through a screen.

“The best way to learn something is with a person right in front of you who you can interact with and build a relationship with,” Amer said.

This time around, Amer informed the district of his plans with plenty of time in advance to search for another teacher. It doesn’t seem like we’ve exhausted all of our options, yet

we’re already settling for the virtual format.

The position is currently posted as part time, with a listed salary of \$11,000-20,000, which definitely doesn’t make it seem desirable. But does it really have to be part time? Wabaunsee has previously had the foreign language teacher in charge of other classes as well.

Both Kathy Hendricks and Rachel Cox taught Spanish for a few class hours and English IV a couple hours, creating a full time position and allowing for more flexibility in the schedule for another section of college English (Hendricks also taught French).

If not English, then maybe a different class such as history. Wabaunsee is severely lacking in history options, as it is down half a history teacher since Jess Rutledge’s arrival. Options such as current events or economics would be great for students and add more flexibility to student’s schedules.

Another option could be to advertise the foreign language position with some of the other vacant part time positions in the district such as the state testing coordinator or as a floating substitute teacher. Substitute teachers have been very difficult to find since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and it seems that they are needed daily. In the hours that the part-time foreign language teacher doesn’t have class they could be the go-to person to cover any and all classes when teachers are absent.

We realize that hiring someone isn’t always easy. Teacher shortages are a nationwide problem, and several other districts in the area are also currently looking for Spanish teachers. We’re not saying the district doesn’t care, or that providing foreign language classes isn’t a priority.

In the end, we would just like the district to really exhaust all other options before settling for a virtual Spanish option, and if virtual Spanish ends up happening, then we hope they will still look for ways to turn it into an in-person class. We all remember virtual learning from when COVID-19 shut everything down in 2020.

While it is a good solution in a bind, and in some cases can work okay, students learn best when they have a teacher present in the class with them to assist them with their learning.

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff. Students discuss editorial topics as a group and write an opinion that represents a majority of the staff. Send letters to the editor to [whscharger@gmail.com](mailto:whscharger@gmail.com).

## JUDGEMENT DAY



Junior Kent Berkenmeier herds cattle at the Wabaunsee Fairgrounds April 20. WHS hosted the district FFA competition for the first time. Photo by AJ Grutsch.

### FFA hosts district livestock judging competition at fairgrounds

AJ Grutsch | podcast editor

Wabaunsee FFA made use of a brand new agricultural facility to host this year’s district FFA Competition.

Wabaunsee hosted the competition for the first time ever this year at the recently-constructed showroom. Prior to the new construction, Wabaunsee could never hold all the students and livestock.

With the help of over 40

volunteers, all 25 schools were able to participate. The students also participated in fundraising to pay for the event and organize food.

Students competed in food science and nursery landscape, along with livestock judging. For livestock judging, participants rank an array of animals from best to worst and give their reasons why.

Wabaunsee students brought an arrangement of

sheep, cattle, steers and hogs to be judged. These animals can be docked points for the way they walk, their size, and overall appearance.

Freshman Dalton Debler placed 6th in livestock judging and freshman Kerrington McKinven placed 6th in Food Science. FFA Adviser Danny Davis said, “Any kid in the top ten is very rewarding.”

FFA will compete at state May 3rd in Manhattan.

## Talk like a teen with the Charger dictionary

Eliza Barton | entertainment editor

When walking down the halls of WHS, you may hear some students saying something like “Bae, you are pushin’ P with that drippy ice, no cap.”

If you had a small seizure reading that, this dictionary is for you. Language is evolving every day, and it’s hard to keep up with the way teenagers speak. Here are some common terms that the current crop of high school students are using.

**Bae**  
[bā] NOUN  
An acronym for “before anyone else” referring to a friend, significant other, or crush. *I wish that she was my bae because she is so cute.*

**Bussin’**  
[bassin] ADJECTIVE  
Something one would say to describe how good something is. *The cookies coach Alderman brought to the track meet were bussin’.*

**Cap**  
[kap] NOUN  
To lie or deceive. Urban Dictionary says the phrase ‘no cap’ is related to permanent gold teeth vs. caps. *He brags about all of the girls he’s talking to, but that’s cap.*

**Clout**  
[klout] NOUN  
Major influence on popular social media platforms, specifically Tik Tok. *That girl is*

*making up drama for clout on Tik Tok.*

**Drip**  
[drip] NOUN  
A word used to describe one’s outfit/clothing choices or attitude. *Bro, Jacob is wearing some serious drip today.*

**Ice**  
[is] NOUN  
Expensive and eccentric jewelry popularized through hip hop. *Yo, he got that ice on!*

**Mid**  
[mid] ADJECTIVE  
A word meaning unimportant, overrated, and hot up to par. *You heard of Ariana Grande? Yeah, she is mid.*

**Pushin’ P**  
[poosh-in P] VERB  
The “P” stands for playa, as in Keeping it Playa and doing positive stuff for yourself and everyone around you. *That club is really Pushin’ P with all of its community service.*

**Ship**  
[-ship] VERB  
To endorse a romantic relationship in either a joking or serious context. Originated back in the day when fans rooted for a romantic relationship between the leads of “The X-Files.” *Dude, I totally ship those two! They are just so cute together.*

**Slay**  
[slā] VERB  
A word used to say that someone is doing a good job or being over the top (in a

good way.) *That pitcher really slays this year. No one can get a hit off of her.*

**Snatched**  
[snaCHed] ADJECTIVE  
Good looking, perfect, or on point. *She looked very snatched in her new shirt.*

**Stan**  
[stan] VERB  
The act of being an obsessive fan of someone/something. Related to the Eminem song “Stan,” about an unhealthily obsessed fan. *OMG I totally Stan Taylor Swift! Her music hits different.*

**Sus**  
[sas] ADJECTIVE  
When someone is doing something weird or suspicious. Popularized by the mobile game “Among Us,” the term actually has historical British roots. *The freshmen are acting very sus in the lunch room.*

**Tea**  
[tē] NOUN  
Another word for gossip, especially the most interesting kind of gossip. *Dude, spill the tea on today’s meeting!*

**Yeet**  
[yēt] EXCLAMATION  
A word often said with comical intent or said while throwing an object. *I’m going to yeet this bottle across the room into that trash can..*

### THE CHARGER

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“The mission of the Charger newspaper and related media is to inform the students and school community about relevant issues in a fair, accurate and timely manner, to advocate for all students and serve as an open forum for student free speech.”