

September 21 • School Board Meeting Recap

District ready for Symposium 2004

Communications Director **Mark Higgins** reported to school board members the district is ready for *Symposium 2004*.

Higgins said a group of nearly 100 community members, students, staff and parents will meet next Tuesday and Wednesday on the campus of Whitman College to discuss the future of Walla Walla Public Schools.

He said staff will receive e-mail copies later this week of the event agenda, information on facilitator Dr. Jim Parsley, a list of participants and an overview of the Symposium visioning process.

Staff Spotlight

Green Park's Missy Johnson honored



Look for Green Park 4th Grade Teacher **Missy Johnson** as the October *Staff Spotlight* employee.

Missy will be featured on cable television stations throughout October and her video will be posted on the district web site under the district news area.

No Child Left Behind update

District schools avoid 'needs improvement' labels

"We have cause to celebrate," said Curriculum Director **Len Taruscio** to school board members during his annual *No Child Left Behind Act* Annual Yearly Progress report (AYP).

Taruscio said in his report no district school will be in year two of AYP "Alert" status, thus escaping punitive measures of the legislation for at least another year and labeling of needs improvement.

Last year, 17 of the 111 possible district "cells", or better described as categories such as race, gender, socio-economics, did not meet standard in grades 4, 7 and 10. This year only two cells fell short of AYP mandated targets. Despite the gains, the district will be in "needs improvement" status for these two areas and must craft an improvement plan to address these needs.

The two cells the district did not meet AYP in for the second year running are 4th grade Limited English Reading and graduation rate, which includes alternative programs students. Taruscio appealed the graduation rate hit because the district supports three successful Alternative programs. If progress is not made in these two cell areas next year, further punitive action will occur.

Taruscio said overall he is very pleased with the district's progress. He went on to say hard work from staff and students had the greatest impact on the improvement.

Each school and district must be assessed annually using the state's approved AYP criteria whether Title I funds are received or not.

Board approves request for mediation in Dohe case

School Board President **Tim Donaldson** approved a request from WEA's attorney to seek mediation in the Lori Dohe personnel matter. Donaldson appointed **Toni Rudnick** and **Dr. Rich Jacks** to be included on the district's team. This recommendation will now go to Dohe's attorney to see if it is accepted. Dohe, a Wa-Hi English teacher, was placed on administrative leave last school year.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting September, 2004, Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; 2004-05 Negotiated Agreements: with PSE and Extracurricular Supervisors; payment of September bills and payroll.
- recommended surveying parents of Wa-Hi students to determine if **Friday, June 3** is their first choice for graduation. A scheduling conflict with spring sports state competitions is causing the concern. The majority of seniors surveyed voted for June 3.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **Claudia Salazar**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Prospect Point
Becky Zaro, Para-Educator, Edison

• Resignations/Retirements

(Classified) - **Janice Klumpp**, Health Clinician, Berney, 9 years
Leticia Dankel, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, one month

• Out-of-State Travel

Karen Dazell to Association for Career & Tech. Ed. National Conference in Las Vegas, NV (funding - Vocational)

Leigh Parker to Managing Respiratory Diseases Educational Program in Las Vegas, NV (funding - Prof. Growth & Personal)

Brian Pendleton, **Dennis DeBroeck**, **Lori Finn**, and **Kirk Jameson** to 2004 National Tech Prep Network Conference in Minneapolis, MN (funding - Vocational and Professional Growth)

Quote of the Week

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes."

Marcel Proust

FFA students take titles at Walla Walla Fair

Wa-Hi FFA students had another strong performance at last month's Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days, according to a report to school board members by Advisors **Mike Martin** and **Arch McHie**. FFA students **Jill Bughi** and **Darling Walk** praised the program and staff.

Martin said the students worked extremely hard. He thanked the school board, administration and Wa-Hi staff for their support of the Wa-Hi FFA program.

Below is a summary of FFA accomplishments:

FFA Champion Lamb ** Kayla Cochran

FFA Reserve Champion Lamb ** Sam Puller

Best Rate of Gain Market Lamb** Ashley Mason

FFA Reserve Champion Hog** Tanner Cole

**All four animals were raised on the Wa-Hi school farm. The top six FFA Market lambs were all raised on the school farm.

Grand Champion Lamb Andrea Bughi

Champion Market Goat Robert Gisi

Champion Goat Showman (Novice) Amanda Farrens

Champion Sheep Showman Ashley Mason

(Freshman/Sophomore division)

Champion Sheep Showman Darling Walk

(Freshman/Sophomore division)

Champion Beef Showman Kaitlin McClelland

(Novice division)

Champion Beef Showman Katie Bohnet

(Novice division)

1st place Horse Judging Team Wa-Hi Girls

2nd place Horse Judging Team Wa-Hi Boys

Top Individual Horse Judge Sara Todorovich

High Point FFA Horse Person Sara Todorovich

2nd Place High Point FFA Horse Person Amanda Smith

1st place Tractor Driving Team Wa-Hi

2nd place Tractor Driving Team Wa-Hi

Top Tractor Driver Individual Sam Puller

Herdsmanship Award

(Maintaining a clean barn area & presenting positive image)

1st place Sheep, Beef, Horse, Goat

Berney staff put out electrical fire

Superintendent **Rich Carter** thanked Berney Principal **Dave Talley**, PE Teacher **Scott Ford**, 4th Grade teacher **Jack O'Brien** and Custodian **Phil Peick** for putting out a small electrical fire discovered last Wednesday during a PE class.

Talley, Ford, O'Brien and Peick used school fire extinguishers to put the fire out before it could spread.

Students were evacuated from the building while area firefighters mopped up the mess. Approximately \$4,500 in damages resulted from the fire.

Walla Walla Electric and Walla Walla Fire Department officials determined a light fixture ballast system caught fire. All other gym lights, which were replaced just two years ago, were inspected. Maintenance staff are studying options to the current lighting system.

Cross Country Team Elementary School Fun Run

Thursday, September 23
4:00 p.m. (3:45 p.m registration)

Murr Sports Park

**All Walla Walla Public Schools'
elementary students invited**

For more information
Contact Wa-Hi Cross Country
Coach **Michael Locati** - 527-3037

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'