

10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

Paine explores moving away from credit system

In a special work session with school board members last night, Alternative Programs Principal **Jeff Weeks** outlined a proposal to change Paine Campus to a standards-based program, a shift from the traditional credits system.

Currently Paine Campus students must earn 22 credits to receive a Walla Walla High School diploma. Under the proposed system, Paine students would demonstrate proficiency in Essential Academic Learning Requirement subject areas and vocational skill areas to meet the defined standards and advance.

Paine students under this model would still be required to meet Washington Assessment of Student Learning benchmarks, develop a cul-

minating project and create a fifth year post high school plan, all graduation requirements per the state's Certificate of Mastery.

"We want to create an environment where students take an interest in their learning," Weeks said to board members.

Truman Alternative High School in Federal Way received approval in recent years from the State School Board to develop a standards-based program. Weeks said it currently has a waiting list and all 20 graduates last year pursued higher education.

Paine's proposal will go before school board members in coming weeks. If approved at the local level, it moves on to the State School Board for final consideration.

School Board Meeting Recap • February 17**District updates Strategic Plan**

With the district's first ever Strategic Plan, "Planning for Tomorrow - Today," in its final year, board members approved an extension to allow an additional year to complete important tasks and update the existing objectives to align with various district plans and recommendations.

Deputy Superintendent Judy Reault chaired a team this school year representing the community and staff to refresh the WWPS Strategic Plan using current data and plans.

"Our task was not to recreate the plan, but simply to incorporate the recommendations already established by dozens of people," Reault said. "Understanding that the renewed plan would sunset in June 2005, the team worked to include manageable objectives reflected in the other documents."

All six original WWPS Strategic Plan goals were retained. The objectives and accompanying action strategies were updated. Some objectives and action strategies have been included in this document to be "sustained."

Committee Members

Janis Barton - Director of Technology and Library Media

Dr. Rich Carter - Superintendent

Dr. Kay Fenimore-Smith - Whitman College faculty

Anne Golden - School Board member

Cindy Meyer - Parent

Laure Quaresma - Principal, Sharpstein Elementary

Brian Pendleton - Principal, Walla Walla High School

Dr. Judy Reault, Chairperson - Deputy Superintendent

Kenny Renner-Singer - Teacher, Pioneer Middle School

Lowell Schneider - Director of Plant Facilities

Len Taruscio - ESEA/Prof. Certification Administrator

Vicky Seachris - Literacy Specialist, Pioneer

Carter updates board on Legislative action

With state legislators in session, Superintendent **Rich Carter** and School Board Member **Anne Golden** made their annual trek to Olympia to discuss educational issues with local elected officials.

Representative Bill Grant and Senator Mike Hewitt met with Carter and Golden. Representative Dave Mastin was unavailable for the meeting. Carter said the visit helps maintain relationships with local politicians and offers a forum to discuss educational issues.

In other School Board meeting business...

February 17 • Board Meeting

Board members:

- approved February 3, 2004 board meeting minutes; and Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports and payment of February bills and payroll.
- received the official February 3 Special Election results report. The district's M&O Levy officially passed at 67.41 percent. The district received 5210 yes votes and just 2519 no votes.

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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) - **Alicia Garza**, Assistant Attendance Secretary, Wa-Hi

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **Rich Gwinn**, PE Teacher, Berney, 30 years

Linda Stevens, Reading/Social Studies, Garrison, 10.5 years

(Classified) - **John Carter**, Para-Educator, Garrison, 2 years

Tish Watts, Para-Educator, Garrison, 10 years

Nancy Tennent, Receptionist, Wa-Hi, 13.5 years

Lenore Zaro, Accounts Payable, Business Office, 42.5 years

• Leave of Absence

(Classified) - **Minerva Vasquez**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 5.5 years

• Out-of-State Travel

Gayle See and **Aneliese Stein** to National PE Conference in New Orleans, LA (funding - PEP Grant)

Quote of the Week

"Experience is one thing you can't get for nothing."

Oscar Wilde

Gear Up Program

College: Not a Dream! It's a PLAN

Garrison Principal **Jim Sporleder** and Gear Up Site Director **Jerri Doyle** reported to school board members last night progress on the program.

The Gear Up Program, *Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs*, is centered on preparing students to enter and succeed in post secondary education.

Gear Up provides an extended learning program from 3 to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Trained tutors provide academic support, during and after school, to help students complete homework assignments, improve motivation and reach higher achievement levels. Students work on academic objectives from 3 to 4 p.m. and then participate in fun activities during the final hour.

Gear Up services were made available through funds from a local/federal matching grant from the Department of Education. Washington State University serves as the grant manager responsible for providing contracted services to Walla Walla Public Schools and several regional school districts.

Doyle said Gear Up also organizes interesting field trips to help hook the kids so they are enthused about participating in the program. Gear Up participants also gain leadership opportunities through community service activities and enhance their technology skills by working with computers.



Jerri Doyle

Graduates of Distinction nominations

Do you know someone who...

- is a high school graduate from Walla Walla Public Schools
- graduated at least 10 years ago.
- is an exemplary citizen and has distinguished accomplishments in his/her community, profession, or career (*need not be a current Walla Walla resident*).
- should be forever remembered for service to humanity, exceptional career achievements, or accomplishments in many areas.

About the program...

With the Graduates of Distinction program, Walla Walla Public Schools wants to recognize and honor the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates. In addition, we want to pay tribute to school staff members who provided positive school experiences and were inspirational in the lives of these graduates.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Complete an application form (*available at Walla Walla Public Schools Curriculum Department*), and send it to GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION, 364 South Park Street - Walla Walla, WA 99362.

Geometry students go 'high tech' at Garrison

Garrison Math Teacher **Kristen Harvey** and three of her outstanding students demonstrated new technology to school board members last night that helps make learning geometry less complicated.

Using the Geometry Sketch Pad software program, students are able to create endless scenarios for learning their geometry problems.

Garrison students manipulated

the software with ease explaining their work to school board members throughout the process.

While most in the audience were looking at the projection screen with amazement, the Garrison students demonstrated their math and computer skills with confidence and expertise as their proud teacher looked on with satisfaction.

For more information, contact

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'