

Board receives draft Strategic Plan

New plan designed to meet needs of all district students

The district is closer to charting its vision for the future after a draft Strategic Plan was submitted to school board members last night during a special work session.

The two-month Strategic Planning process has involved community members, students, staff, administrators, school board members and parents.

Symposium 2004 in September launched the visioning process and provided a solid core of expectations and recommendations for the Strategic Planning team to consider. Staff

members followed up this effort by completing input feedback sheets to the planning team.

Strategic planning team members used this input, plus pieces from the existing Strategic Plan and other studies for the draft.

Former Deputy Superintendent **Judy Result**, now with ESD 123, served as the Strategic Planning Team facilitator.

The district will now develop specific management plans to address core areas (see below). The finalized plan is expected to be ready for board approval in April.

Strategic Plan Timeline

January

- Core Team forms/meets
- Leaders named to head core areas
- Work teams formed
- Timelines established

February

- Initial plans developed

March

- Final plans completed
- Strategic Planning Committee reconvenes for presentation of plans

April

- Final plan presented to Board for approval

Strategic Plan Core Areas

- Teaching and Learning
- Facilities and Technology
- Communication

December 14 • School Board Meeting Recap

'Stars' perform Holiday Cheer



Members of the Prospect Point 4th and 5th grades boys and girls choir, led by Music Teacher **Stephanie St. Clair**, perform sounds of the holidays for school board members during last night's meeting.

Proud parents lined the board room in celebration of the special holiday performance. The students wished everyone a merry holiday.

Winter Holiday Break

Winter break officially kicks off at the end of the school day, Friday, December 17. Classes resume Monday, January 3.

*Have a safe and
happy holiday season!*

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting November 16, 2004, Personnel and Out-of-State Travel Reports, Payment of December bills and payroll.
- received for first reading Board Policy 2020 - Curriculum Development & Adoption of Curriculum & Instructional Materials.
- learned information has been received, per their request, from the Kent School District on its Ombudsman Program.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) - **Lynda Bren**, Health Clinician, Berney
Cami Coers, Special Education Para-Educator, Wa-Hi
Eilin Conover, Special Education Para-Educator, Pioneer
Joy Moniz, Special Education Para-Educator, Wa-Hi
Joyce Larson, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi
Kimberly Mann, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi

• Resignations/Retirements

(Classified) - **Margi Hay**, Bilingual Assistant Secretary, Green Park - 14 years (moving to Bellingham, Wa)
Marie Spalding, Para-Educator, Pioneer - 1 year
Patti Townsend, Food Service Assistant - 3 years

• Out-of-State Travel

Marina Cortez, Diana Cox, Magdalena Gutierrez, Lucy Gregoire, Adriana Ruiz to National Head Start Hispanic Institute in Albuquerque, NM (*funding - Head Start*)
Sue Hansen to present at National AAHPERD Conference in Chicago, IL (*funding - I-728*)
Dusti Rogers to Association for Career and Tech. Ed National Conference in Las Vegas, NV (*funding - Vocational*)
Gay Sawatzki Buissink to Western Business & Information Tech. Educators 2005 Conference in Reno, NV (*funding - Vocational*)

Quote of the Week

"Striving for excellence motivates you. Striving for perfection is demoralizing"

Harriet Braiker

Weeks reviews Alternative Programs progress

Alternative Programs Principal **Jeff Weeks** reviewed his guide to school improvement during last night's progress report to school board members.

Weeks said he is pleased with progress made at Paine Campus, Opportunity Program and Homelink. He said staff members continue to work hard to connect with students to make achievement gains.

Alternative Programs Progress Report Highlights

Opportunity Goals

- To improve student writing in all curricular areas
- To improve students' problem solving strategies used in Mathematics

Strategies used for success at Opportunity Program

- Increase student study table time on campus by two hours daily
- Small group instruction classes in each content area
- Academic strategies class for all sophomores

HomeLink Goals

- To develop and implement reading intervention programs for struggling readers
- Improve writing across all curricular areas

Paine Campus Goals

- Improve Reading and Mathematics skills of students
- Implement Performance Based Proficiencies System
- Develop community job shadow and internship opportunities for students

Measure of Academic Progress

- Mean Student Math Scores Spring 2004 were 221RIT and up to 227RIT as of last week
- Mean Student Reading Scores Spring 2004 were 214RIT and up to 222RIT as of last week

Job Shadow and Internship Program

- 31 students completed job shadows and learning internships within the community last term
- Two students received job offers at graduation

Enrollment remains above projections

The district is serving more students this year than it did last year, according to last night's enrollment report from Executive Director of Personnel **Bill Jordan**.

Jordan reported enrollment "head counts," the termed used for all students served, are up 106 since the beginning of the year. He said Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) student counts, which represents the enrollment formula used for district budgeting, currently rest at 5786, up 175 students from beginning year projections.

"That's good news," Jordan exclaimed. "We are in a good position."

Enrollment counts are tallied each month and then averaged at the end of the year for a final figure.

Citizens rally for Garrison track

The holidays came early for Garrison Middle School as community member **Craig Nelson** presented to school board members his group's plan to raise money for an all-weather track at the school through private donations and grants.

Nelson sought board approval before proceeding further. School board members embraced the idea and thanked Nelson's group for its generosity and support of Walla Walla Public Schools. The group hopes to have the track in place this summer. Design work and fund raising are set to begin soon.

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'