

December 13 • School Board Meeting Recap

Board supports facilities improvement bond

School board members last night passed a resolution in support of a facilities improvement bond slated for Tuesday, May 16.

"This is an issue that has been studied in-depth for the past six years by local citizens, staff, school board members, parents, students, administrators, business leaders and independent consultants," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "This is not a decision that was made without great discussion, thought and consideration by a number of parties over a long period of time."

This proposed plan – which calls for replacement bond elections every six years while maintaining a flat rate of 99 cents in additional taxes over the 2005 bond rate throughout the span of the 25 years – is based on needs documented through local, regional and national studies.

Significant changes to state matching dollars formulas benefit this plan and would bring in \$33,672,000 in the first bond alone.

The **May 16, 2006 bond election** addresses the district's most urgent needs, which include: replacing Edison Elementary (current site), replacing Paine Alternative Campus (current site), moving our Support Services operations to the current Walla Walla High School Career and Technical Education building, and replacing and renovating Walla Walla High School. The 2006 bond also calls for additional dollars at all schools for yearly facility improvements, technology and security upgrades.

Funding summary (May 16, 2006 bond):

- \$53,950,000 (Local)

- \$33,672,000 (State match dollars)

Total – \$ 87,622,000 (.99 cents per \$1,000 in additional taxes above the 2005 bond rate.

Note: \$8,000,000 is the estimated amount of the College Place contribution for high school improvements. This will eventually reduce the local responsibility to approximately **\$45,950,000**)

Meyer takes school board oath of office

Longtime district volunteer **Cindy Meyer** became the district's newest board member last night after taking the oath of office. She takes the seat of retiring school board member Dr. Richard Jacks.



Cindy Meyer

Meyer has a B.A. in Geology from Oregon State University. She co-chaired the Citizens for Schools Levy campaigns in 2002 and 2004 and has volunteered in the schools for 12 years in numerous roles and capacities.

She and her husband, Joe, a local physician, have two teenage daughters. Meyer will serve a four year term.

Highlights of Meyer's District Volunteer Service

- Green Park PTA Treasurer, 2 years
- Green Park PTA Vice-President, 1 year
- Green Park PTA President, 2 years
- Explorer Parent Organization Co-President, 2 years
- Explorer Parent Organization Grant Writer, 2 years
- Walla Walla High School PTA Vice-President, 1 year
- Walla Walla High School PTA President
- Numerous committee chair positions within PTA
- Golden Acorn Award Recipient
- 00-01 Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipient
- 03-04 SEWASA Award for Outstanding Service
- Member Walla Walla High School SLC, 3 years
- Strategic Plan "the reunion" committee member
- District "late start" committee member

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meetings of November 15 & 30 and December 6, 2005, Personnel and Out of State Travel Report, and Payment of December bills and payroll.
- were entertained by members of the Wa-Hi Music Department. Thanks to **Norb Rossi** for organizing this holiday musical treat.
- welcomed **Mary Jo Geidl** back for her second term last night after she was officially sworn in to office for another four year term. Board members also elected Geidl president of the board and named Anne Golden vice president.

Personnel Report

• New Hires - NONE TO REPORT

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Mindy Meyer**, English Teacher, Wa-Hi, 14 years

- (resignation of .2FTE -- Mindy's position will remain .6 FTE)

Sue Westergard, Learning Specialist, Green Park, 30 years

- (resignation effective the end of the 2005-2006 school year)

(Classified) **Vicki Craig**, Para-Educator, Green Park, 13 years

Ky Hafen, Auditorium Coordinator, Wa-Hi, 1 year

Araceli Colin, Para-Educator, Green Park, four months

• Leave of Absences - **Magali Hernandez**, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi, 6 years

- (remainder of 05-06 school year to serve temporarily as an Emergency Migrant Family Advocate/Para-Educator)

• Out of State Travel - **Mike Lambert**, **Nancy Withycombe** to NAESP Conference in San Antonio, TX (Funding - Principal's Travel)

LTC Gary Banks to National High School JROTC Competition in Daytona Beach, FL (Funding - ROTC)

Janis Barton to PDK Curriculum Management Audit Training Level 1 in San Antonio, TX (Director's travel/Technology)

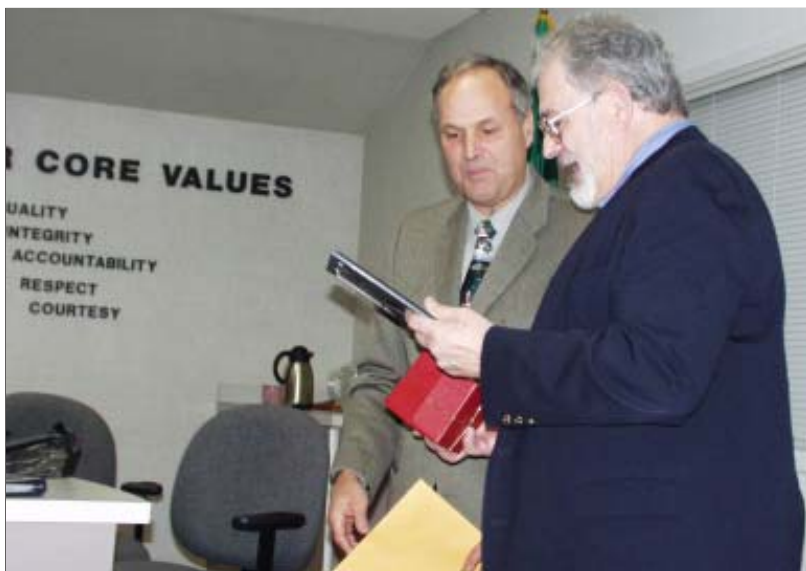
Janis Barton to PDK Curriculum Management Audit Training Level 1 in Clearwater, FL (Director's travel/Technology)

Quote of the Week

"Human systems grow toward what they persistently ask questions about."

David Cooperrider

Longtime school board member Rich Jacks retires



Superintendent Rich Carter thanks Dr. Rich Jacks for his 12 years of service on the school board and presents him with keepsakes to show his appreciation. Thanks Rich for all you have done for Walla Walla children.

Two district teachers earn National Board certification

Congratulations to Walla Walla High School English as a Second Language teacher **Diana Erickson** and Green Park Elementary 5th grade teacher **Elissa Stites** for earning this prestigious certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

The path towards National Board certification is a year-long introspective process, one which includes creating of a portfolio of work that documents a teacher's success in the classroom. Candidates also complete a series of tests designed to measure their knowledge.

"We are proud of these outstanding educators and the effort they put in to earn this certification," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "We are fortunate to have this level of educator working with children in Walla Walla. I salute their efforts."

Richland schools to challenge "mini" WASLs

Superintendent **Rich Carter** informed the school board on the Richland School District board's intent to challenge the state of Washington and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in regard to use of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) for grades 3, 5, 6 and 8.

These assessments or "mini WASLs" as some have termed, would be in addition to the reading, math and writing assessments administered to all 4, 7 and 10th graders in March and April. Students in grades 5, 8 and 10 are also tested in science.

The report last night was intended to be an information only item.

Carter explained that Richland's immediate intent is to have the state legislature approve legislation that would call for an independent examination of the WASL and also put a stop to adding more WASL tests.

Richland officials point out that the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) provides for flexibility and local control in assessment systems.

Per NCLB, a state's assessment system may include:

1. only statewide assessments
2. a combination of statewide and local assessments
3. only local assessments

Richland administrators and school board members also maintain that assessment tools should be simple to administer, inexpensive, and provide useful data to staff, students and parents. WASL results are not returned until early August following spring exams.

Walla Walla Public Schools board members expressed an interest to learn more about this issue and asked for additional information.