

School zone safety a top priority

District increases awareness to help keep students safe



Last night Superintendent **Mick Miller** reported to school board members on efforts the district is taking to improve traffic safety in school zones and area cross walks. Last week's accident involving two Pioneer Middle School students who were hit in a cross walk on their way to school prompted the awareness campaign.

Miller has contacted all principals and asked them to remind staff, students and parents to use extreme caution while driving in school zones. He has also been in contact with city and county law enforcement leaders to encourage additional patrols in school zones.

Walla Walla Public Schools is also purchasing additional school zone orange marker cones and "Little Green Men" figures to help drivers know they are entering a school zone.

Miller said he will continue the public awareness campaign throughout the school year and will fully support the efforts of an upstart Community Traffic Safety Task Force led by parents **Kathryn Southwick-Hess** and **Katie Christianson**.

District enrollment count up

Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported to school board members Tuesday night the district is serving about 100 more students in grades K-12 than it was at this time last year. As of September 1, the district recorded 5957 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students.

Johnston reported September 8 will be the district's first official enrollment count to the state of Washington for the 2010-2011 school year. She said the enrollment numbers could change based on Running Start, Greenways Academy of Washington Online School and Alternative Education Program enrollment figures which will come in later this month.

Johnston said it appears district enrollment is up at all grade levels this fall.

District receives energy efficiency grant

Walla Walla Public Schools received a \$380,000 state energy efficiency grant to help pay for a new energy management system at Blue Ridge Elementary and lighting retrofits at Blue Ridge and Prospect Point Elementary Schools. The total cost of this project is approximately \$950,000. The district estimates it will save \$30,000 per year in utility fees from these upgrades.

The district will now apply for additional energy efficiency grant funds to offset costs for a new boiler at Pioneer and other energy projects.

The district reinvested the under budget funds from the Edison construction project to successfully secure these match required grant funds. District funds must be used as a match in order to apply for these state energy efficiency grants.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of August 17, 2010 board meeting, personnel report, out-state-travel, 2010-11 insurance renewal and special services general fund imprest.
- approved Resolution 23-2010 (Commissioning Report/SEW Transportation Cooperative)
- approved Resolution 24-2010 (Final Acceptance/SEW Transportation Cooperative)

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Certificated) **Mikayla Cummings**, Kindergarten, Edison
Amber Ferraro, Third Grade, Blue Ridge
Kelsie Loree, First Grade (Temp.), Blue Ridge
Hilary Tinnensand-Darnold, LAP .6 FTE (Temp.), Berney

(Classified) **Daniel Coffey**, Para-Educator, Garrison Middle School
Jennie Courtney, Health Clinician, Pioneer Middle School
Juana Diaz, Para-Educator, Sharpstein
Yaneth Hernandez, Intervention Specialist, Blue Ridge
LaVonda Hinrichsen, Para-Educator (Temp.), Berney
Kate Keyes, Para-Educator (Temp.), Edison
Brian Kitamura, Para-Educator (Temp.), Edison
Raquel Martinez, Para-Educator (Temp.), Edison
Monique Morris, Para-Educator (Temp.), Sharpstein
Chanel Parke, Para-Educator (Temp.), Green Park
Cleo Peterson, Para-Educator (Temp.), Lincoln
Megan Shane, Para-Educator (Temp.), Garrison

• Resignation/Retirement

(Classified) **Wendy Jones**, Health Clinician, Pioneer, 4 days
Yajaira Page, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 3 years
Kyle Sullivan-Jones, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 2 years

• Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Jeremy Hubbard**, Third Grade, Blue Ridge, 9.5 years
- Jeremy will serve as a math coach at Blue Ridge for 2010-2011
(Classified) **Araceli Garcia**, Para-Educator, Sharpstein, 1 year

• Out-of-State Travel

Linda Boggs to attend AVID Training in Denver, CO (Funding: Curriculum and Instruction)
Arch McHie to attend National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN (Funding: Vocational)

District and State testing results a mixed bag

District Technology and Assessment Director **Ron Higgins** reported last night to school board members the state testing scores from spring 2010 were mixed when compared to spring 2009.

Higgins said reading remains the district's strongest subject, with 10th grade results consistently exceeding the state average. He reported the district is above the state average in writing and science at the middle schools and high schools. The district finished below the state average in math at all grade levels. For a complete listing of all state test results, visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/>

Higgins said the state testing data is used along side several other measurements to track student progress. He said across the district teachers, administrators and support staff are using assessment data to guide instruction and support strategies.

Summer projects improve facilities for school year

Last night Facilities and Operations Director **Dan Johnson** reported to school board members on projects completed by maintenance and grounds staff during the summer months. Johnson said numerous projects were completed this summer to improve learning opportunities for students. Attached: Johnson's slideshow - PDF.

Quote of the Week

"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change."

Carl Rogers

Staff Transfers

• **Eddie Walker** has transferred from Pioneer Middle School as assistant secretary to Garrison Middle School as Secretary for the Music Department.

Walker replaces **Ginger Calvario** who transferred from the Music Department Secretary to Secretary to Director of Preschool Programs at Blue Ridge.

Listen to Blue Devil Football



2010-2011 calendar correction

The 2010-2011 school year calendar has an error. The early dismissal days of September 24, March 4 and June 3 are for elementary schools only. The 2010-2011 calendar incorrectly states these early dismissal dates are for all district schools, K-12.

Corrected calendars will be printed and sent out to all schools and posted on the district website. Parents are encouraged to check with elementary schools for their specific early dismissal times. Walla Walla Public Schools regrets this error.

School board meetings to start at 6:30 p.m. beginning in October 2010

School board meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. beginning in October to better meet the needs of staff, parents and students.