

Wa-Hi facility planning to take more time

Miller recommends waiting on May 2011 bond

Superintendent **Mick Miller** recommended to school board members last night to wait on pursuing a bond measure to improve Walla Walla High School.

Miller has been busy the past two months meeting with staff and community members to gather input on when the district should take a measure to the voters.

Low interest rates and construction costs tempted Miller to consider a bond measure in May of 2011. He said although most people recognize Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools have tremendous facility needs, he reported now is not the time to seek voter approval on these projects.

“We need more input from the community and staff on the design of a modernized Walla Walla High School,” Miller said. “We have met with scores of people and we need to continue this outreach as we move forward with planning a bond for November 2011 or April 2012.”

The district is partnering with architects from BLRB/USKH to develop designs for a future Walla Walla High School facilities improvement project. Miller says architects will meet more frequently with Walla Walla High School staff in the coming weeks to further refine designs.

Miller said the district will conduct community meetings, organize tours of Walla Walla High School, meet with individuals, service groups, parents and staff this spring and next school year to get input on preliminary designs for Walla Walla High School.

Assistant Superintendent **Laure Quaresma** is working with Lincoln HS Principal **Jim Sporleder** and Lincoln staff to develop a vision for the school’s future programs to better determine longrange facility needs.



Mick Miller
Superintendent

Reser right-of-way easement approved

School board members last night took action to approve three measures to keep the Reser Road improvement project moving ahead.

The district granted right-of-way easements and donated a narrow strip of land to support the project designed to improve Reser Road from Howard to Fern Streets.

The project is slated to begin June 13 and be completed prior to the first day of school. Walla Walla County Project Engineer **Aaron Grimm** said permits to replace the bridge over Yellowhawk Creek could impact the construction schedule, but he remained optimistic the project would meet the target timeline.

The Reser Road project will widen the road to 40 feet and feature eight foot sidewalks on the northside of the road and six foot sidewalks on the southside of the road.

New fencing will be installed along the road to replace existing school fences. The project will not impact the playground at Prospect Point.

Walla Walla County received grant money to help pay for the project. The district will not be required to contribute any funding.

“We consider the school district to be our partner in this project,” said Grimm, a Walla Walla High School graduate. “This project will enhance Prospect Point, Walla Walla High School and the entire community.”

Traffic flow will be impacted by the project. The district will work with WW County to develop a project communications plan.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of March 1, 2011 board meeting, personnel, out-of-state travel, March accounts payable/second half and February financial statement.
- approved a Reser Road right-of-way and maintenance easement with Walla Walla County as part of the project to improve Reser Road from Howard to Fern Streets. Construction is expected to begin June 13.
- received for information: New Policy 5004 - Anti-Nepotism.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Classified) **Ruthell Martinez**, Bilingual Intervention Specialist, Sharpstein

Resignation/Retirement

(Classified) **Karene Gonzalez**, Assistant Secretary, Special Programs, 1 year
(*Karene's last day will be March 24, 2011*)

Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Jeanne Lothspeich**, Special Education, Wa-Hi, 23 years
(*Jeanne will be on leave for the 2011-2012 school year*)

Out-of-State Travel

Scott Reardon to attend Financial Algebra Summer Institute in Mason, OH (Funding: Vocational - Federal)

Quote of the Week

"He who opens a school door,
closes a prison."

Victor Hugo

Classified Employee Week

March 14-21

Thanks for all you do!

Pioneer students show board gang documentary

Pioneer Middle School students **John Martin**, **Caleb Thompson** and **Hayden Hartwell**, who are in **Dan Calzaretta's** class, showed board members their video documentary on how gangs impact the lives of youth in Walla Walla. The documentary featured an interview with Attorney General **Rob McKenna** and Walla Walla High School Resource Officer **Scott Brashear**. The documentary stressed the importance of students staying involved in positive school activities and working as a community on gang prevention strategies.



Great Explorations adventure features NASA astronaut

Last night American Association of University Women member **Ruth Ladderud** briefed the school board on this year's Great Explorations adventure in science, technology, engineering and math for girls in grades 5 through 8.

The highlight of the Saturday, March 26 event, which is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Whitman Collage, is the appearance of NASA astronaut Dorothy "Dottie" Metcalf-Lindenburger. She is this year's keynote speaker. Her talk is titled "Dream BIG, Work Hard".

Metcalf-Lindenburger will also meet with Lincoln and Walla Walla High School students Monday, March 28 at their schools.

For more information on registration, scholarships or questions on any of the events, please contact Carol Morgan, pcmorgan@charter.net, 525-3531, or visit the AAUW website at www.aauw-wallawalla.org.

Washington State School Retirees Appreciation Week

March 14-21

School Board President **Dr. Jim Lehmann** read a proclamation last night honoring school retirees. He thanked them for their service to our children and community.

Former Prospect Point Principal **Rick Nebeker** and Blue Ridge teacher **Harriet Michaels** were present to represent the Walla Walla/Columbia County Retired Educators Association.

Art Regier Volunteer of the Year nominations

Nominations are being accepted through **Friday, March 25** for the Art Regier Outstanding Volunteers of the Year Award. Recipients will be recognized at the April 19 school board meeting. Nomination forms are available at all Walla Walla Public Schools and the district office.

Criteria for selection may include the following:

1. Exceptional service or contributions to the children of Walla Walla Public Schools
2. Unusual dedication
3. Demonstration of care, compassion and empathy

Recipients of the Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award will be honored with a plaque to display at their home or place of business, and their name will be permanently affixed to a memorial plaque in the school district's board room at 364 South Park Street. For more information, please call Communications Director Mark Higgins (509) 526-6716.

Spring Break Schedule

No school April 4-8