

District accepts bid for Skills Center

Two major subcontractors from Walla Walla

Walla Walla Public Schools accepted the nearly \$8.3 million bid from Leone and Keeble, Inc. of Spokane, WA to construct the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center on the campus of Walla Walla Community College.

Leone and Keeble, Inc. presented the lowest bid for the project slated to begin in early April 2013. The bid acceptance recommendation now moves to the State of Washington for final approval.

Two of the project's major subcontractors are from Walla Walla: Walla Walla Electric and Cutting Edge Plumbing & Mechanical. The project is expected to be completed during the summer of 2014 with classes beginning September 2014. Earlier this fall the district rejected all bids for the project due to a funding shortfall of \$1.2 million.

"Leone and Keeble, Inc. is an outstanding contractor and have done a number of projects in Walla Walla," Superintendent **Mick Miller** said. "This project will help stimulate the local economy. We are most excited about the fact this fully state funded project will be built primarily by local people as two of the major subcontractors are from Walla Walla."

In the spring of 2012, the Washington State Legislature allocated \$10.3 million to fund construction and equipment for the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center in Walla Walla. The Skills Center will serve high school students from five regional districts.

The Southeast Area Technical Skills Center will offer high school courses in construction trades, welding, renewable resources and health occupation programs. Career and Technical Education courses at Walla Walla High School will still be offered.

AVID program recognition night

Staff encouraged to attend celebration

Walla Walla High School students **Felipe Salazar, Chris Esquivel, Ruby Salgado** and **Alexis Pasillas** reported to school board members about their experiences in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program.

All the students reported this program is helping preparing them for college and success in high school. They encouraged the school board and staff to attend the AVID Academic Recognition and Family Night later this month (details below).

AVID targets students in the academic middle - B, C, and even D students - who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families.

AVID Recognition & Family Night

- February 20
- 6 p.m. (dinner) / 6:30 p.m. (program begins)
- Walla Walla High School Commons
- Guest speaker: Dr. Steven VanAusdle

No School Feb. 7 & 8
Parent Teacher Conferences

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the Jan. 15, 2013 board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra curricular contracts, Feb. 5 accounts payable and January payroll.
- approved a Revision to Policy 6800 Safety, Operations, and Maintenance of School Property.
- approved Resolution No. 02-2013 -- Intent to construct SEA-Tech Skills Center
- approved Resolution No. 03-2013 -- SEA-Tech Skills Center construction bid award
- received for First Reading: Policy 6970/Naming Schools and Facilities

Personnel Report

Employment - NONE TO REPORT

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Karen Dazell, Business Education, Walla Walla High School, 19 years

Shelley Mann, American Sign Language, Walla Walla High School, 13 years

Quote of the Week

“Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.”

Henry Ford

Out of State Travel

Linda Boggs to attend the AVID District Leadership (Elementary) in Sacramento, CA (Funding: Title II)

Maria Garcia to attend SWIS Training in Eugene, OR (Funding: Title II)

Laure Quaresma to attend Symposium on Teacher Induction in San Jose, CA (Funding: Title II)

Revised elementary report cards now used

Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs** shared the revised elementary standards-based gradebook and report card used by teachers and families for the first-time during this week’s parent/teacher conferences.

According to Boggs, teaching, assessing, and reporting based on standards has been a practice at the elementary level for several years.

“The new report card was written specifically for Walla Walla,” Boggs said. “The local K-12 Standards-Based Grading and Reporting Committee and elementary stakeholders at each grade level developed the final version.”



Dr. Linda Boggs

During the presentation, Boggs demonstrated how the gradebook interacts with Skyward. She said this is a valuable tool for teachers. She said she encourages feedback on the new standards-based report card and gradebook. She said this new process will provide parents a more accurate account of their child’s academic skills and progress.

School Board Committee Assignments

Max Carrera:

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations (w/Cindy Meyer)
- Head Start Policy Council

Dan Hess

- Community Facilities Task Force
- Extra-Curricular Supervisors Negotiations
- Administrative Negotiations
- School-Based Health Clinic

Anne Golden

- Curriculum Advisory/Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations (w/Ruth Ladderud)
- Legislative Representative
- District Calendar (alternate)
- WWVEA Liaison

Ruth Ladderud

- WIAA Liaison
- Certificated Negotiations (w/Anne Golden)
- Technology/Telecommunications
- District Calendar
- WWVEA Liaison

Cindy Meyer

- Explorer Advisory Committee
- AVID Liaison
- Parent Advisory
- Classified Negotiations (w/Max Carrera)
- Citizens for Schools Liaison

National School Board names legislative priorities

School board president **Anne Golden** recently returned from Washington DC where she went to Capitol Hill on behalf of the National School Board Association’s Board of Directors to outline the organization’s legislative priorities.

1. No sequestration
2. Support bill for more local control
3. Reauthorize ESEA
4. Safety in Schools measures



Wa-Hi Bond

Remember to Vote!

Ballots due Feb. 12

Project Benefits

- Larger classrooms w/ today’s technology
- Improved science labs
- Air conditioning and efficient heating
- New music and drama spaces
- All weather track and fitness center
- Modern library and spacious Commons