



Annual Report 2003-2004

A report to our stakeholders



Quality Integrity Accountability Respect Courtesy

Walla Walla Public Schools

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Walla Walla Public Schools 2003-2004 Annual Report is designed and printed IN-HOUSE by the district's Communications Department.

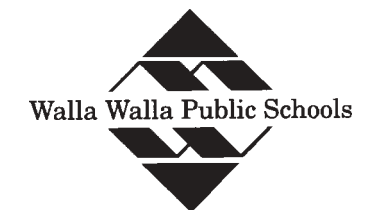
For more information about the school district contact Communications Director Mark Higgins at 509.526.6716 or by e-mail at: mhiggins@wwps.org

Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all the requirements of the ADA

M&O Levy Results
67% Yes!

Thanks Walla Walla for
supporting your local
public schools!

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District salutes this year's retiring staff *Thanks for a job well done!*

Berney Elementary

- Rich Gwinn - PE Teacher, 30 years

District Office

- Judy Reault - Deputy Superintendent, 5 years
- Bill Bieloh - Personnel Director, 45 years
- Betty Schubert - Special Programs Director, 15 years
- Beverly Thygeson - Health Services Director, 21 years
- Lenore Zaro - Accounts Payable

Pioneer Middle School

- Lyla Reibel - Principal, 18 years

Garrison Middle School

- Trudy Schrader - Instrumental Music Teacher, 30 years
- Linda Stevens - Title One, 10.5 years

Prospect Point Elementary School

- Milt Ross - Speech Specialist, 16 years
- Cathy Cook - Special Education Para-Professional, 31 years

* Please Note: Services years represent time working for Walla Walla Public Schools

District Shining Stars...

- The Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) named Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Linda Boggs** the state's Distinguished Principal for 2003. Under Boggs' leadership, Blue Ridge has continued to make substantial academic gains.
- Berney Elementary new teacher **Wes Sanders** noticed smoke rolling out the basement window of a house across the street from the campus. Sanders rushed over and extinguished the fire before it could spread. The owner had no idea the house caught fire.
- Blue Ridge Secretary **Heidy Wiese**, Edison Teacher **Leslie Hanson-Anderson**, Blue Ridge Para-Educator **Gail Danielson**, Edison Library-Media Specialist **Georgia Germain**, and Mentor Teacher Coordinator **Tracy Williams** were named recipients of 2004 Staff Achievement grants. Staff Achievement Grant recipients are nominated and selected by their peers for superior performance and exceptional service. Recipients receive a \$1,000 stipend and five days of release time for professional growth activities.
- Walla Walla-Columbia School Retirees Association presented mini-grants to Garrison PE Teacher **Diane Briggs** and Library-Media Specialist **Jackie George**. Both received \$100 checks to use to improve instruction and achievement.
- Sharpstein Elementary Third Grade Bilingual Teacher **Sara Van Donge** earned her National Board Certification in 2003.
- Wa-Hi FFA advisors **Mike Martin** and **Arch McHie** helped the school bring home a national title in the Marketing Division in 2003. This is the second national title in as many years. FFA members in the past two school years have earned 20 academic scholarships worth \$13,200!
- Communications Director **Mark Higgins** was elected Exchange Club of Walla Walla *President-Elect*. Technology Director **Janis Barton** was elected Director of the American Citizenship portfolio for the Exchange Club of Walla Walla.
- Edison Principal **Nancy Withycombe** was named a Washington State Regional Distinguished Principal. Withycombe is respected for her staff relations, parent involvement and listening skills.
- Energy Management Program Manager **John Butenhoff** led the district to receiving the Rocky Mountain Region Western States award for outstanding energy management. Under Butenhoff, the district has saved more than \$1 million in utilities costs.
- The district was featured during a one-hour KCTS PBS (Seattle) feature television show *THE LEARNING CURVE - Closing the Achievement Gap*. Program segments included: Blue Ridge Elementary test score improvements, Sharpstein's Dual Language Program, an interview with a Garrison Night School parent, and Pioneer's science partnership program in Cheryl Herr's class.



Superintendent
Dr. Richard Carter

Highs and lows mark 2003-2004 school year

Each school year begins with anticipation and promise and hopefully ends with a sense of accomplishment, satisfaction and pride. As I reflect upon this school year, I realize we've experienced an entire gamut of emotions this school year.

We had to anchor ourselves from drifting into the clouds as State Superintendent Terry Bergeson praised our actions during her annual state of education address. When the community overwhelmingly supported our schools by passing a four-year M&O levy, we felt a tremendous sense of accomplishment and purpose.

We've also had to pull ourselves up and dig deep from within to continue on in the wake of tremendous tragedy. This school year many of our staff members lost loved ones. And then in May without notice or reason, one of our dearest treasures, Garrison's Ann Weatherill, was taken from us. Through it all, not unlike a family, we continued to believe in each other and fight for the good of all children.

Retirements have hit us hard this school year, too, as we have lost more than 400 years in experience. I want to thank all of the retirees for their years of service. They have raised the bar and now it's up to us to continue their tradition of excellence. As superintendent of this great school district, I'm proud to say I'm from Walla Walla Public Schools. Thanks for all you do for our schools!

2003-2004 Goals Review - A look at how we did...

Keep pace with the state's Uniform Bar for improved academic achievement.

District students, for the most part, exceeded the state bar in reading and math in 2003. Hispanic and special education students, however, still have an uphill climb to reach the goal set by the State of Washington for all students.

Maintain the current level of programs and services with 2004 Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy funding.

Walla Walla voters sent a strong message of support in February by overwhelmingly approving a four-year replacement Maintenance and Operations levy. With the 67.41 percent yes vote tallied from the February 3 election, local funding is preserved through 2008.

Continue to refine and shape the district's facilities needs study in preparation for a potential multiple projects bond issue to go before voters in 2005.

MGT of America completed an independent study of all Walla Walla Public Schools facilities. This third party facilities study scored all schools and support departments in three areas: physical condition, education suitability, and technology readiness. The district will now engage the community, staff and parents in a visioning process to determine what Walla Walla wants in its public schools. A long-range plan linked to a strategic plan will then be developed to support educational needs.

Support staff and recruit highly skilled educators to Walla Walla Public Schools.

The district provided a week long orientation for new staff. Mentor teachers and peer coaches were assigned to all new teachers. College classes and testing for para-educators were offered to meet highly qualified requirements of No Child Left Behind. District recruiters attended four career fairs and numerous college visits. The district facilitated professional certification for residency certificate holders.

Maintain positive cash reserve of at least 3 to 5 percent, per school board directive.

The district will meet this goal for 2003-2004.

Continue efforts to improve communication with our community, parents, staff and students.

The district launched a new website this school year (www.wgps.org). The site features a suggestion box, test results, school closure information and more.

In Loving Memory



Ann Weatherill
1952-2004

Garrison Middle School teacher Ann Weatherill passed away May 9 in a bicycling accident near Prescott.

Ann was a valuable veteran teacher who taught sixth and seventh grade reading for the past 20 years. She was an avid fitness enthusiast and actively involved in the district's swimming program.

Ann also vigorously supported the district's Explorers program for gifted learners and *Citizens for Schools* election campaigns. Ann was the wife of local businessman and writer Charles Potts.

A trust fund has been established in her name at Garrison to support student programs and scholarships.

Community Supports Four Year Levy

Funding for essential student programs secured

Walla Walla voters sent a strong message of support for Walla Walla Public Schools in February by overwhelmingly approving a four-year replacement Maintenance and Operations levy.

With the 67.41 percent yes vote tallied from the February 3 election, local funding is preserved through 2008. M&O levy dollars make up approximately 17 percent of the district budget and impact nearly all district programs and operations.

Four-year levy Highlights

The district extended the M&O levy from two to four years.

Here are the specific reasons why:

- Provides stability to essential educational programs and activities.
- Taxpayers are able to forecast their tax rates for a longer period of time.
- Saves money. Cuts expensive election costs.
- Allows more time to focus on educational issues to meet today's tough state and federal requirements.

Citizens for Schools co-chairs honored

Citizens for Schools Co-Chairs **Cindy Meyer** and **Bob Hill** received Community Involvement awards from the SouthEastern Washington Association of School Administrators.

Superintendent Rich Carter presented the awards to Meyer and Hill during a special June awards banquet at the Country Club. Meyer and Hill spent hundreds of volunteer hours helping raise community awareness for the 2004 M&O Levy.

Meyer is a transplanted Oregonian, having been raised in LaGrande, and graduating from Oregon State. Cindy and her husband Dr. Joe Meyer have two daughters: Beth, 5th grade; Mandi, a sophomore. Cindy is a generous classroom volunteer, including going on field trips with teachers and students.

Hill is married to Kammy, Walla Walla city clerk. They moved here from California and their two children, Courtney (5th grade) and Taylor (1st grade), both in Sharpstein, have been attending Walla Walla Public Schools since 1999.

Hill has served as PTA president for Sharpstein Elementary and is a very active parent volunteer, with a special interest in the Dual Language program. Bob is retired and enjoying his time with his family while spending countless hours helping out at Sharpstein.

Art Regier Volunteers of the Year recipients honored for excellence

Walla Walla Public Schools named **Colleen Larish**, **Don Carlyle**, and **Frank Skorina** its *Art Regier Volunteers of the Year*.

The Art Regier *Volunteer of the Year* award is a thank you for the hundreds of hours and tireless dedication these outstanding citizens have given to the district over the years on behalf of students, staff and the community.



Colleen Larish - Berney

- Book fair coordinator
- Classroom volunteer
- Accelerated Reader monitor
- Library assistant



Don Carlyle - Wa-Hi

- Wa-Hi Music Booster
- Concession stands coordinator
- Helped generate \$6,000 in profits
- Orders products, stocks concession area, sells goods, and cleans facility



Frank Skorina - Green Park

- Math team coach
- Volunteer computer programmer
- PE program volunteer
- Active PTA and classroom volunteer

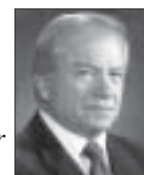
District names Graduates of Distinction

Walla Walla Public Schools inducted three outstanding alumni to its Graduates of Distinction program. They are: Harold R. Frank, Ned Shafer, and Jeffrey Frank Ray.

With the Graduates of Distinction program, Walla Walla Public Schools recognizes the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates. This program also pays tribute to school staff members who were inspirational in the lives of these graduates.



Ned Shafer
Class of 1961
Civic Leader
Active Volunteer



Harold Frank
Class of 1941
Entrepreneur
Benefactor



Jeffrey Ray
Class of 1978
Award Winning Anchor
Community Advocate

Wa-Hi Crest Club blood drive delivers gift of life



Wa-Hi student **Sean Day** (L) gives blood during the Crest Club annual Red Cross Blood Drive.

Crest Club member **Sammy Sanderson** assists Day as he donates blood.

More than 125 Wa-Hi students participated this year resulting in a donation of nearly 100 pints.

Crest Club is a senior all girls club. This honor club requires students to have a 3.5 cumulative G.P.A. This year 45 senior girls participated in Crest Club.

Social Studies teachers **Malia Renner-Singer** and **Michelle Higgins** are club advisors.

Wa-Hi JROTC students precise at Marksmanship event

Following a family tradition dating back to their grandfather, this year Wa-Hi JROTC cadets, and siblings, Junior **Joey Criss** and Freshmen **Amber Criss** qualified for the National Interservice JROTC Marksmanship Championships at Fort Benning, GA.

Joey and Amber placed fourth and sixth respectively at the Army Western regional championships earning the nationals bid.

Both their father and grandfather

competed on Wa-Hi JROTC Marksmanship teams.

Wa-Hi's precision rifle team finished second at regionals and fourth nationally, finishing only five points behind the 3rd place team and earned a trip to the nationals.

The Precision and "Sporter" air rifle teams and the Sponsor Drill team and color guard earned league championship honors in the JROTC Drill and Rifle Conference.



Athletics & School

A winning combination

Walla Walla High School Senior **Kenny Baisch** looks downfield for an open receiver.

This year, 528 out of 814 student-athletes posted a 3.0 or better G.P.A. More than 330 were Honor Scholar Athletes with 3.5 or better G.P.As.

Girls Soccer Coach **Leah Taylor** and Boys Track Coach **Harvey Wellington** were named Big Nine Coaches of the Year for their sports.

This year Wa-Hi had 11 teams advance to State or Regionals. Boys Basketball placed 7th in State.

Music Department Highlights

Russ Larsen Scholarships

Recent graduates **Sarah Thomson** and **Erika Boettcher** received **Russ Larsen Music Scholarships** this spring.

The **Russ Larsen** scholarship is specifically for students who plan to major or minor in music at the college level. Each student received \$600 to help further pursue their musical interests.. Thomson will be attending **Whitworth** this fall while Boettcher will be attending **Walla Walla Community College**.

Chamber Singers in Seattle

Wa-Hi Chamber Singers made their annual trek to Seattle to sing at a **Mariners'** game this spring. This year FOX TV producers heard the Chamber Singers "warming up" during the sound check. They were so impressed that they decided to have the **Canadian National Anthem** and the **Star Spangled Banner** as part of the TV telecast. Usually this portion of the broadcast is sent to commercial. They aired both songs in their entirety. Congratulations!

KTEL awarded sports radio contract

KTEL 1490 AM was awarded the **Wa-Hi Blue Devils** radio sports contract for the next three years. Longtime sports broadcaster **Andrew Holt** will be the new voice of the Blue Devils. KTEL will cover Wa-Hi football and girls and boys varsity basketball.

Future Problem Solving team wins state

Walla Walla High School Future Problem Solving team - Seniors **Natalie Coleman**, **Meghan Carlson**, **David Johnston**, and Junior **Riley Clubb** - took the state title in the 10-12 grade level and qualified for the **International Competition** in Kentucky. Garrison seventh grader **Glynnis McClellan** placed first in the individual competition for grades 7-9.

Dance Team repeats as State Champs

Congratulations to the **Wa-Hi Dance Team** for defending its state title during the **WIAA 4A State Championships**, March 19 in **Yakima**.

The team's performance earned it the highest score of any team in all events.

Special thanks to coaches **Amy Hisaw** and **Brittney McKeown** for all their hard work preparing the team for competition.

Department Highlights

Superintendent of Public Instruction recently approved the 2004-2007 district Technology Plan.

Under the direction of Director of Technology Janis Barton, the plan was developed during a year-long process which included a final review by a committee of staff, school board, and community members.

Thanks go to the Computer Coordinators at each site who were instrumental in the development of their site Technology & Learning plans, that are included in the final district plan.



Janis Barton

“Our plan hinges on using current and future technology to improve student achievement and instructional strategies.”

Janis Barton

New Technology Plan Highlights

- Plan hinges on using current and future technology to improve student achievement and instructional strategies.
- Requires minimum technology competencies for staff and students. Standards have been developed to measure performance levels.
- Expands access to technology through web-based resources.
- Technology to support students as they meet Essential Academic Learning Requirements. (*math, reading, writing, science, social studies, art and physical education.*)

Network & Technical Support Rick Pummel & Shane Jacobson

Given our ratio of technicians to computers in the district of 1:700, **Shane Jacobson, Software Support Specialist**, has done a fantastic job of providing the best customer service possible under those conditions. **Rick Pummel, Network Engineer**, has had a challenging year meeting the ever-increasing demands for additional network resources.

Some of our projects were:

- Replacement of network hardware and servers at Prospect Point Elementary and Edison Elementary.
- Outfitting of the new portable building at Prospect Point Elementary with computers and network connectivity.
- Replacement of servers at Green Park and Garrison.
- Addition of computer lab at Blue Ridge Elementary.
- Addition of a computer lab at Walla Walla High School. Unlike previous labs, which were dedicated to vocational purposes, this new lab is open to the entire campus to support all staff and students.
- Replacement of aging vocational computer labs at Wa-Hi and Paine Campus with new computers and Internet connectivity.
- Technology support for Wa-Hi's new In-School Suspension room.
- Battled the outbreak of two computer viruses/worms which threatened to slow down the district network to an unusable state.
- Processed thousands of requests for service and support.
- Assisted Total Office Concepts in the installation of several networked copiers around the district, enabling staff to print directly to a copy machine, thus improving staff efficiency.

Telecommunications - Steve Olsen

- Media and technology updates to district Board of Directors room.
- Wa-Hi's aging cable TV system has been upgraded to better support classrooms.

Web and Online Services - Cory Fish

- *Substitute Online*: Set up program for district substitutes to efficiently schedule work online.
- *Staff training*: Provided support for Intel and Technology Mini-sessions for teachers.
- Prepared media movies for our district website and various presentations.
- Provided training and support as requested for elementary school websites.
- Development, implementation and reporting required to support the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Survey.



Internet Engineer Cory Fish provided extensive research, development and technical support this year in web and online services

Technology Department Salute!

Special thanks to our district Technology Team for providing the technical support necessary for another successful year.

- **Rick Pummel** - Network Engineer
- **Shane Jacobson** - Software Support Specialist
- **Cory Fish** - Web Developer & Technician
- **Steve Olsen** - Telecommunications
- **Pat Griffith, Pam Nichols, Rayleen Hicks** - Secretaries

District updates Strategic Plan

With the district's first ever Strategic Plan, "Planning for Tomorrow - Today," in its final year, board members this year approved an extension to allow an additional year to complete important tasks.

Deputy Superintendent Judy Reault chaired the committee representing the community and staff to refresh the district's Strategic Plan using current data and plans.

"Our task was not to recreate the plan, but simply to incorporate the recommendations already established by dozens of people," Reault said.

All six original district Strategic Plan goals were retained. The objectives and accompanying action strategies were updated.

Committee Members

- Janis Barton** - Director of Technology
- Dr. Rich Carter** - Superintendent
- Dr. Kay Fenimore-Smith** - Whitman College faculty
- Anne Golden** - School Board member
- Cindy Meyer** - Parent
- Laure Quaresma** - Principal, Sharpstein Elementary
- Brian Pendleton** - Principal, Walla Walla High School
- Dr. Judy Reault** - Deputy Superintendent
- Kenny Renner-Singer** - Teacher, Pioneer Middle
- Lowell Schneider** - Director of Plant Facilities
- Len Taruscio** - ESEA/Prof. Certification Admin.
- Vicky Seachris** - Literacy Specialist, Pioneer

Strategic Plan Measurable Gains

2003•2004

Goal 1 - Establish improved learning standards and academically challenging programs

- Updated the district's Strategic Plan.
- Completed year one of a two year social studies curriculum adoption.
- State school board approved new, performance-based, graduation requirements for Paine Alternative school.
- Students demonstrated outstanding achievements in reading and math.

Goal 2 - Collaborate with the community to reduce the effects of socio-economic problems

- District participated in numerous community sponsored events to better study socio-economic issues.
- District partnered with the *Friends* youth-to-adult mentoring program. The *Friends* program now conducts its participant recruitment lunches at the district's central office.
- Students participated in Gear Up, Talent Search and Schools for the 21st Century grants projects. These grants provide funds for extended learning programs designed to help students who are attempting to become first generation college students.

Goal 3 - Improving two-way communications

- The district launched a new comprehensive website this school year (www.wwps.org). The site features a suggestion box, test results, school closure information and more.
- District organized a Superintendent's Forum featuring a State of Education Address and public input session.

Goal 4 - Ensure highly qualified staff

- The district provided a week long orientation for new staff.
- Mentor teachers and peer coaches were assigned to all new teachers.
- College classes and testing for para-educators were offered to meet highly qualified requirements of No Child Left Behind.
- Literacy First professional development program offered to secondary (grades 6-12) staff.

Goal 5 - Ensure adequate funding to accomplish district's mission

- Walla Walla voters approved a four-year replacement Maintenance and Operations levy. With the 67.41 percent yes vote tallied from the February 3 election, local funding is preserved through 2008.

Goal 6 - Provide a safe, secure, and drug-free educational environment

- Named Alternative Programs Principal Jeff Weeks the district's Safe Schools coordinator.
- Safe Schools Committee met several times to review safety plans, discuss issues and plan for emergencies.
- Bullying Prevention program continued through staff training efforts to curb bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Busy year for Personnel Department

With the announcement of the retirement of longtime Administrator **Bill Bieloh**, the Personnel Department was extremely busy getting prepared for this departure. In addition to finding a new Personnel Director, the district also faced filling five administrative positions and 13 teaching positions. Although this year was challenging, department staff are confident they have recruited highly skilled professionals to continue the district's long established tradition of excellence.

Personnel Department Highlights

- Coordinated a week long new employee orientation
- Successfully integrated a new SubOnline program
- Instituted state test for para-educators to become highly qualified under federally mandated No Child Left Behind Act
- Updated district's Workplace Diversity Plan for 2004-2009

New Hires for 2004-2005 School Year

Administrators - 7 Teachers - 17
Support Staff - 1 (Approximate - hiring numbers subject to change)

District Staffing (as of Summer 2004)

Administrators - 36 Teachers 375
Support Staff - 212

District Enrollment (2003-2004)

Student counts based on Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students

- In School programs _____ 5364
 - All programs _____ 5748
- (Walla Walla Public Schools **decreased** about 19 FTE students in district administered "In School" programs.)

Bieloh says good-bye after 45 years of service

Executive Director of Personnel **Bill Bieloh** submitted his letter of retirement this year after 45 years of consecutive service to Walla Walla Public Schools.

Bieloh thanked the school board for its support and said it was an honor to have the opportunity to prepare young people to be productive citizens.



Bieloh

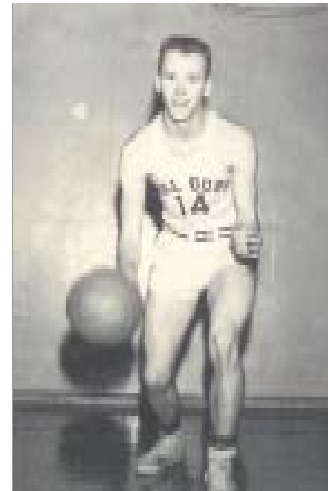
"I have been called teacher, coach, athletic director and Executive Director of Personnel," Bieloh said in his retirement letter. "The title that meant the most to me was when I was called teacher and coach. To have the opportunity to prepare young people to be productive citizens was an awesome responsibility that was exciting and always rewarding."

Bieloh last spring was inducted into the *Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame*.

Thanks Bill Bieloh!
We'll miss you...



Good luck in retirement!



Up, Up and Away! Chamber of Commerce brings Balloon Stampede launches to area schools



Pioneer Middle School teacher **David Blocklinger** and several Pioneer staff and students help a balloonist during last May's annual Balloon Stampede celebration. Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Director **Dave Warkentin** worked with the school district officials to organize an early morning launch at all Walla Walla Public Schools. This effort allowed students and community members an opportunity to get a first hand experience of a hot air balloon launch.

Warkentin's goal was to bring the event closer to the community. Feedback from the school launchings was positive, so we hope to do it again next year!

Record storm forces district to close schools Safety at core of decision to keep students home

As many regional school districts shortened their summer breaks to make up numerous days lost as a result of last winter's severe storm, Walla Walla Public Schools was fortunate to only miss one day. The district used its May 7 snow make-up day to complete the school year schedule.

Superintendent Rich Carter kept staff and students home January 7 due to poor road conditions and hazardous walking routes. The district also delayed school two-hours January 5, 6 and 15.

School Closure Procedures

During winter months, parents and community members are encouraged to tune to local radio and television stations, or now go **ONLINE** at www.wwps.org, to receive current information regarding school closures or delays.

Assume school will operate on time if you have not heard about a delay or closure by 6:30 a.m.

Calls to local media outlets from the school district are **ONLY** made if there are delays or closures.

Weeks takes helm of Safe Schools Committee

Alternative Programs Principal **Jeff Weeks** was appointed chair of the district's Safe Schools Committee. The Safe Schools program meets regularly each school year to discuss safety issues and plan training opportunities.

Law enforcement and fire officials, mental health representatives, parents, and district staff are active participants in the program.

Weeks is responsible for facilitating meetings, seeking safe schools grant funding, reporting to the school board, and planning crisis training sessions. Goal six of the district's Strategic Plan is centered around providing a safe and drug free learning environment for staff, students and guests.



Jeff Weeks

Safe Schools Committee • 2003-2004 Highlights

• Safe Schools Committee members participated in several meetings this school year to refine safety procedures and discuss safety issues and topics.

• Walla Walla High School joined 400 high schools in Washington State in a campus mapping program to enhance safety and security. Funds were provided for in the state's Capital Budget during the 2003 Legislative Session.

First responders (e.g. fire, police, ambulance) will use the "maps" – electronically documented digital floor plans, escape routes and other building data – in the event of a natural or man-made crisis at schools. The project is managed by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in collaboration with the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) and the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs (WSAFC).

Prepared Response Web site: www.preparedresponse.com

Thompson leads districtwide bullying prevention program

Local insurance expert **Mark Thompson**, who also serves as the district's Risk Management Officer, was successful in continuing the district's bullying prevention program.



Mark Thompson

Thompson conducted numerous training sessions with staff this school year to help them better respond to bullying, intimidation or harassment issues.

The district has a zero tolerance for bullying, harassment and intimidation.

Bullying Prevention Program Highlights

- District employees have received 53 total hours of training on how to recognize and rectify bullying situations. More training is scheduled.
- Garrison and Pioneer Middle Schools surveyed students on bullying at school issues. The results will be available to staff, students and parents this fall.
- Sharpstein established a Bullying Prevention Team.

Safe pesticide spraying practices

Walla Walla Public Schools is committed to safe pesticide spraying practices. The district takes a conservative stance in the use of commercial fertilizers and pesticides on its 100 acres of grounds.

Fertilizer is applied twice a year, spring and fall. Pesticides (Herbicides) are applied on the same schedule to control weeds and may only be applied by a licensed applicator.

Strict guidelines on posting and notification include keeping a list of pesticide sensitive children to contact when spraying is taking place. Principals, head custodians and building secretaries are notified with an e-mail and a public notice to be placed at their entries and their main office 48 hours prior to the spray application.

The pre-notification requirements do not apply if the application is made to a school that is not occupied by students for at least two consecutive days after application, but quite often notifications are posted in those cases as well.

Curriculum Department leads change

Change, change and more change has been the mode of operation in the Curriculum Department this year as Deputy Superintendent Dr. **Judy Reault** retired after a long and decorated career in public education.

The Curriculum Department staff pushed forward to update the district's strategic plan and a host of curriculum offerings. Science classes this year featured more hands-on learning models and reader friendly textbooks.

The district's most gifted learners in the Explorers Program will have new, more challenging curriculum next fall and the district's Social Studies staff are working to improve their offerings. Special thanks to Judy Reault for her leadership. Good luck in retirement. We'll miss you!



Judy Reault
Deputy
Superintendent

Curriculum Department Highlights

- Led the development of updated strategic plan.
- Implemented new 6-12 Science curriculum and supporting materials.
- Approved new curriculum and text for high school basic English class.
- Approved new K-5 Science curriculum and supporting materials.
- Completed work on new middle school Explorers curriculum - scheduled for approval this fall.
- Documented improved student achievement through state and local assessments; efforts widely recognized across the state.
- Began work on new 6-12 Social Studies curriculum.

Reault announces retirement plans

After 31 years in education which included six administrative positions and three teaching assignments, Deputy Superintendent **Judy Reault** announced in March this school year would be her last.

"My years of teaching and administration have brought joy and fulfillment to my life, and I hope I have made a difference for many deserving students," Reault said. "It just seems fitting that Walla Walla is my last stop - I saved the best for last."

Reault was hired by Walla Walla Public Schools in 1999 to lead the district's Curriculum and Instruction Department.

Reault has since led the district through Science and Math Curriculum adoptions and is currently working on Social Studies. Reault was instrumental in crafting the district's recently approved Strategic Plan extension and organized a broad-based committee to develop a secondary late start plan.

Reault plans to spend more time with her husband Greg in Pasco and her new granddaughter in Seattle. She enjoys fishing, golfing, traveling and playing with her black lab Maggie. Reault will continue teaching at WSU Tri-Cities. She hasn't ruled out further professional endeavors, but says she has no immediate plans.

District publishes Comprehensive Assessment Plan as resource tool

In response to the numerous questions regarding assessment in Walla Walla Public Schools, a District Assessment Plan has been published which contains test specifications and general information about the assessments administered in district schools throughout the year. The resource also contains an assessment calendar for the year.

Len Taruscio, ESEA/Certification Administrator, presented the document to school board members in May.

"Rather than searching through technical journals or surfing various websites, teachers and administrators, especially those new to the district, will be able to have their questions answered about district assessments in one document," Taruscio said. Copies will be distributed to each building in the district as well as be available in the district office.



Len Taruscio

Washington Assessment of Student Learning

District Accomplishments on the 2003 WASL

- District 4th graders posted increases of 12 percent in reading and 8 percent in both writing and math
- District 7th graders demonstrated gains in reading and math and maintained in writing
- 26.1 percent of the Class of 2008 met standard on all four areas of the WASL as compared to 18 percent as 4th graders
- District 10th graders showed improvement in Writing for the 3rd year in a row
- 30 percent of the Class of 2005 met standard on all four areas of the WASL as compared to 18.5 percent as 7th graders in 2000
- The number of 10th graders meeting 4 of 4 standards has more than doubled since 2000: 13.4 percent in 2000 as compared to 30 percent in 2003

District Challenges

- Special Education and Hispanic students' district WASL test score gains are not improving fast enough to meet established state accountability goals

State changes teacher certification requirements

As of September 1, 2000, all beginning teachers and most teachers from out of state who intend to teach in Washington receive Residency Certificates as their first Washington teaching certificate. This certificate is valid for five years. Within this five-year period, teachers are expected to earn the second level teaching certificate, the Professional Certificate.

The district has partnered with both EWU and WSU to offer the Professional Certification program locally. Fourteen Walla Walla teachers completed the Professional Certification program and earned a Masters in Education from EWU this spring.

An additional three earned a Masters only and five, Professional Certificates only. EWU will begin another program in Walla Walla this fall. Currently, an additional seven teachers are enrolled in a WSU Professional Certification program, also being delivered locally.

The Professional Certificate is performance-based and relies heavily on the production of school/classroom-based performance indicators. Candidates must demonstrate competencies in three standards (Effective Teaching, Professional Development, and Leadership) and must demonstrate a positive impact on student learning.

The program begins with a pre-assessment seminar during which candidates develop a Professional Growth Plan (PGP) with the help of their Professional Growth Team. The PGP is based on an assessment of the candidate's need for assistance in order to demonstrate the required competencies. It may consist of mentoring, course work, peer coaching, work shops, and more.

Walla Walla teachers earn national certification

A National Board Certification, offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, is a demonstration of a candidate's teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards.

When a teacher achieves a National Board certificate, it's a credential attesting to the fact a teacher has been assessed by his or her peers as one who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about student learning, and acts effectively.

Six Walla Walla Public Schools teachers completed the first phase of the program in April, which was to submit a portfolio of videotaped classroom teaching, lesson plans, student work samples and reflections on teaching that show their impact on student learning. The second phase, a series of written prompts that measure knowledge of their subject area, were completed in June. Certification decisions will not be announced until November, 2005.

The candidates, supported by a partnership program between WWPS and WSU, met regularly with a collegial support group with mentoring provided by Walla Walla National Board certified teachers, Cindy Nass and Gayle See and WSU professors. Teachers reported spending 150-200 hours on the certification process. Walla Walla will again partner with WSU next year.

Schubert ready to make retirement plans

After 37 years serving children in various public education roles, Special Programs Director **Betty Schubert** has announced her plans to retire August 31. Schubert attended McLoughlin High School in Milton-Freewater before graduating from Oregon State University with a Bachelors of Science degree in Education.



Betty Schubert
Director of
Special Programs

Betty's first teaching job was fifth grade at Edison Elementary. She has held several teaching positions during her career and has also been a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Child Development Specialist, School Psychologist and Walla Walla Community College Administrator. Betty has been married to her husband Bob for 39 years. They have two children and currently live on their family farm near Milton-Freewater. Good luck Betty!

Special Programs students served • 2003-2004

Special Education	735
Transitional Bilingual (Preschool -12)	736
Title I/LAP	2,131

Two languages are better than one!



Kindergarten students (last year) **Madeline Redman** (Left) and **Jeanette Arellano** (right) help each other learn English and Spanish as part of Sharpstein Elementary School's Two-Way Language Enrichment Program.

Instruction is provided 50 percent in Spanish and 50 percent in English. The program is designed to help students gain fluency in two languages, achieve academic success in two languages, and develop positive cultural relationships.

Special Programs Highlights

Title 1/LAP

- **Secondary Reading Program** - Garrison and Pioneer Middle Schools along with Walla Walla High School embarked on the first year of a three year Literacy First program to improve reading achievement.
- **Title 1 Family Literacy** - The Ready for Kindergarten program hosted three sessions for parents of children aged newborn to 5 years old to provide parents with research-based parenting information.
- **Kindergarten Orientation** - Each elementary building offered a Kindergarten orientation for incoming Kindergarten families.
- **Paraeducator College Program** - The Walla Walla School District completed five quarters of the Paraeducator AAAS certification program to ensure compliance with the No Child Left Behind 'Highly Qualified Staff' requirements.
- **Extended Day Programs** - For the third year, elementary schools provided extended day programs for students in need of reading and/or math intervention.

Bilingual/Migrant highlights

- **Promising Practices** - Teachers attended the first annual Promising Practices fall institute. Topics included best practices instruction for English language learners.
- **Two-Way Immersion at Sharpstein** - Fifty-three Sharpstein kindergartners completed their first year of Two-Way Language Enrichment. As this class moves to first grade following the same program model, another group of kindergartners will come on board. The model continues through 5th grade.
- **Prospect Point Expands Again** - A new section of 3rd grade bilingual students opened this year. This completes the school's transitional bilingual model.
- **Migrant Student Leadership** - Fifty-five Garrison and Wa-Hi migrant students participated in three days of workshops in March to improve communication and leadership skills.

Special Education highlights

- Renovated the "White House" near Wa-Hi to create a Transition and Employment Program to help students learn skills for independent living.
- The district was the recipient of two grants to implement a Three Tier Intervention Model to provide intensive reading and language assistance to students in early grades who are struggling academically.

Stretching our dollars as much as we can

The State of Washington has again limited its revenues to school districts because of legislative cuts. Our challenge is to provide adequate funding to accomplish the mission and strategic plan of Walla Walla Public Schools.

Our budgeted expenditures are projected to exceed revenues in 2004-05. We project a cash fund balance of at least 3-5% that will meet school board budget guidelines for the upcoming year.

District receives positive Audit Review

The State of Washington Auditor's Office has done an extensive review of our state, federal, and local programs, cash handling, and equipment inventories. Law and policy compliance are also part of the review. Walla Walla Public Schools did a fantastic job in regards to its Audit. Our entire staff needs to be commended.



Aron Rausch
Business Manager

Thanks for your support!
Aron Rausch

Financial Resources

The district receives 72% of its revenue from the state, 15% locally, and 13% from federal sources. The total general fund budget for the 2003-2004 school year is \$46,797,328 which averages an expenditure of approximately \$8,200 per student.

Cost to educate one student for one day! **\$45.56**

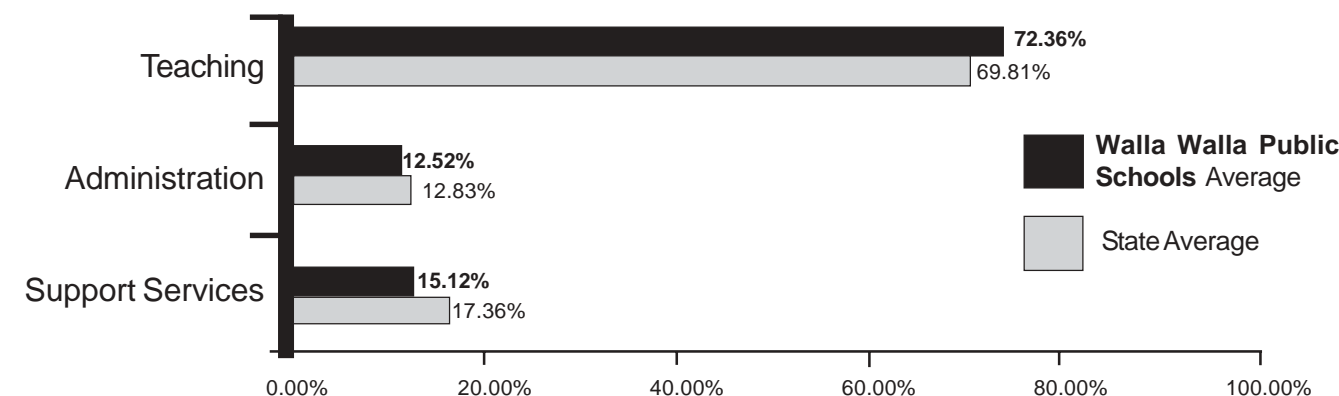
- \$32.98 - Teaching (includes: salaries and benefits for teachers and teachers' assistants; library media specialists; counselors; classroom supplies and equipment; staff professional development; and extracurricular expenses.)
- \$5.70 - Administration (includes: salaries and benefits of health clinicians; psychologists; speech/language specialists; therapists; principals; staff in the principals' offices; school board expenses; superintendent's office; curriculum and instruction; personnel office; and business office)
- \$6.88 - Support Services (includes: expenses for student transportation; food services; maintenance; grounds; custodial services; utilities; insurance; security; data processing; printing; and warehouse.)

Business Office Highlights

- Longtime accounts payable officer **Lenore Zaro** retired after 42 years of service. Lenore processed more than 100,000 purchase orders in her career!
- Hired **DeeDee Delaney** as the new accounts payable officer.
- Completed a comprehensive, independent facilities study.
- Processed \$36,200,000 in payroll and \$9,800,000 accounts payable vouchers.
- Conducted \$3.4 million in business with local business establishments.

How is the budget spent?

Compared to the rest of the state, Walla Walla Public Schools economize on administration and support services to make more money available for teaching.



Information from the Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction (2001-2002).