

## 10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

**Board to consider four year M&O Levy in 2004**

School board members last night conducted their first public work session for the pending 2004 Maintenance and Operations Levy.

Board members discussed setting the levy rate and selecting an election date. Superintendent **Rich Carter** recommended to school board members they propose extending the M&O levy from two to four years. He based his recommendation on the following reasons:

- 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.

Business Manager **Aron Rausch** proposed the district increase the levy by \$300,000 per year to help cover state funding losses and increased operational costs. Board members said they are seeking input from staff and community members regarding some of the changes being proposed for the 2004 levy.

This proposal would replace local funding 68 percent of Walla Walla voters approved in 2002. M&O funding provides approximately 13 percent of the operating budget and closer to 18 percent when additional funding contingent on levy passage is figured in.

Board members are expected to take action on these issues at an upcoming board meeting.

**School Board Meeting Recap • October 7****Berney's new Extended Enrichment Program enhances the arts in education**

BEEP! BEEP! No the "Roadrunner" is not zipping across your television screen, but a new Extended Enrichment Program has zoomed in to Berney this school year.

Principal **David Talley** reported to school board members the Berney Extended Learning Program or B.E.E.P is an opportunity for Berney students in grades K-5 to experience a wide variety of activities in the areas of Arts, Sciences, Community Awareness and Health and Safety. Talley said activities will include ceramics, guitar, Spanish, multicultural activities, painting, drawing, theatre, intramural athletics and more.

*David Talley*

Students have an opportunity every other Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to participate in this program. Talley said the idea is to help get community members involved so they may share their talents, skills and knowledge with tomorrow's leaders. **Laura van Dyke** has taken on the role as B.E.E.P. coordinator. For more information, call the school or e-mail Laura at [petervandyke@charter.net](mailto:petervandyke@charter.net).

**Famous guitar player Doyle Dykes to perform in Walla Walla**

Board members were treated to a glimpse of what's to come in Walla Walla later this month as one of the finest fingerpicking guitarists **Doyle Dykes** is set to perform at the Wa-Hi Auditorium, Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students with school ID. Seating is limited. Tickets are available at the WWCC bookstore,

Whitman College bookstore, Logos bookstore and at the door. Proceeds to benefit Walla Walla Public Schools elementary music programs.

Talley, a guitar player himself, helped introduce guitar into Berney's school music curriculum this year. Dykes will also perform an assembly for elementary students.

**In other School Board meeting business...**

October 7 • Board Meeting

**Board members:**

- approved Sept. 16, 2003 board meeting minutes; Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; Grant Applications for TAP (teacher assistance program), Title IV (Safe/Drug Free Schools), Title V (Innovative Programs); Resolution #11-2003, Budget Extension; and Policy Revisions/Updates.

Our Core Values are more than mere words; they're our business!

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **Jose Suazo**, ROTC Instructor, Wa-Hi

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **NONE TO REPORT**

### • Leave of Absence

(Classified) - **Sue Smith**, Para-Educator, Berney - (one year leave of absence)

### • Out-of-State Travel

**Marci Knauff** to Language! Training in Boise, ID (*funding - Special Education*)

**Debbie Rowland-Smith** to Aural Rehabilitation for Children with Cochlear Implants in Salem, OR (*funding - Special Education and Professional Growth*)

### Quote of the Week

"The future belongs to the team who lives intensely in the present."

Anonymous

## Board approves resolutions supporting water park and bringing extra Horizon flight back to WW

### Regional Water Park

Board members approved a resolution last night supporting the construction of a Regional Water Park in Walla Walla. The current facility, Memorial Pool, is nearing the end of its operational usefulness, and if it closes, Walla Walla and surrounding communities would lose a positive, safe area for Walla Walla children. By acting now, a state tax credit pays for 25 percent of the project. The Regional Water Park in Walla Walla would feature a competition swimming pool, wave machine, water slides, flow rider machine and more. The site would also serve as a location for Wa-Hi's swim team to practice and hold some meets. Memorial Pool cannot host swim meets due to inadequate pool depth. The issue will be on the ballot Tuesday, Nov. 4 as the Walla Walla Public Facilities District Proposition No. 1; Aquatics Center.

### Horizon Air Service

Board members in a resolution approved last night encouraged Horizon Air to work cooperatively with the Port of Walla Walla to reinstate a four-flight schedule in Walla Walla. Horizon Air, after posting annual losses flying to Walla Walla, reduced service earlier this fall. Board members said convenient and affordable commercial air service is important to the economic vitality of the Walla Walla Valley. They also encouraged staff to travel from the Walla Walla Regional Airport when traveling on school district business.

### Middle School advanced science students ponder the universe

"Is the universe worth studying?" This is the question Science/Explorer Teacher **Shannon Ahrens** asked her 7th and 8th grade advanced science students from Garrison and Pioneer as they began the school year. Ahrens reported to school board members their answers were yes. Ahrens presented a powerpoint slide show to board members highlighting some of her student's work. The project

called on students to propose science endeavors which may encourage space tourism. Students played two roles, scientists and researchers.

After all their work was completed, the students were required to write essays detailing their results. Ahrens said her students had fun and enhanced their learning.

### American Education Week Celebration

Community members are cordially invited to participate in a *Celebrate American Education Week* special event. Guests will pick a school of their choice to visit for a two-hour tour and discussion. Guests also will interact and have lunch with students.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** at 526-6716 or by e-mail at: [mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org)

### *Celebrate American Education Week* FACT SHEET

**Date:** Thursday, Nov. 20

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to Noon

**Locations:** All Walla Walla Public Schools

### What will guests do?

- Meet with students and tour school
- Discuss challenges facing Walla Walla schools
- Eat school lunch with students

**Want to attend?** Contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** at 526-6716 or by e-mail at: [mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org)

The **10/10 Staff Newsletter** is published three times per month by the Walla Walla Public Schools Communications Department.

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'

**Exercise Your Right! • Vote November 4**