

## 10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

**Bergeson salutes district***'All decisions aim at raising achievement'*

Board members were still glowing last night as they reflected on praises from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Terry Bergeson during her 2003 State of Education Address at the Washington State School Directors Association annual meeting Friday in Seattle.

"The district - from the school board on down - has taken a systemic approach to improving student achievement," Bergeson said while speaking to a crowd of more than 1,000 school board members, administrators, educators and students. "All decisions - from budget to maintenance to curriculum - aim at raising achievement."

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"Bottom line: The district culture has changed. No one asks 'if' students can achieve - there is an expectation that all students can achieve."

**Terry Bergeson** - *State Superintendent*

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Board members last night watched a video dubbed portion of Bergeson's address to help relive the district's shining moment. During her address, Bergeson praised district teachers for becoming experts in using student data to create individual learning strategies.

"Bottom line: The district culture has changed," Bergeson said. "No one asks 'if' students can achieve - there is an expectation that all students can achieve."

Bergeson felt so strongly Walla Walla be well represented at the conference, she funded a grant to pay for all district principals and teachers **Vicky Seachris** and **Sue Westergard** to attend. Bergeson's complete speech and video are available online at: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

**School Board Meeting Recap • November 18****Pendleton reports progress during Wa-Hi improvement plan update**

With a comprehensive teacher collaboration plan in place, new science and math curriculums to build upon and purposeful instruction taking place in classrooms, Wa-Hi Principal **Brian Pendleton** voiced optimism to the school board during his annual school progress report.

Assistant Principals **Mark Agrellas**, **Mira Gobel**, **Ron Higgins** and **Kirk Jameson** reported communication between middle and high school exists at a new level. The group also said they expect to see increased student performance based on implementation of student centered teaching strategies.

Although the administrators expressed concern regarding 2003 results on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, they told board members they are confident the building is moving in the right direction to improve achievement. They reported Wa-Hi's primary goal is to improve student learning and quality of teaching.

**Wa-Hi School Improvement Plan Goals** (*drafted 2002-2003*)  
(*Clear and defined progress was reported on each goal*)

**Goal 1** Implement best practices and student centered teaching strategies

**Goal 2** Wa-Hi will develop a clear and shared focus centered upon student learning

**Goal 3** Bring about frequent, honest and accurate teacher evaluations to improve teacher performance

**Goal 4** Increase WASL Reading Success to 65.6%

**Goal 5** Increase WASL Math Success to 45.5%

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

November 18 • Board Meeting

**Board members:**

- approved Nov. 4, 2003 board meeting minutes; Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; Application for State Transitional Bilingual Grant; Administrative Match Contract; and Payment of November bills and payroll.
- approved board meeting schedule, *January to June 2004*  
(Meeting dates - Jan. 6 & 20, Feb. 3 & 17, March 2 & 16, April 20, May 4 & 18, June 1 & 15)
- approved revision of Policy No. 2004, Accountability Goals
- approved Curriculum/Instructional Materials Adoption: Veterinary Science; Accounting 5-6
- elected **Tim Donaldson** as the board's new President and **Dr. Richard Jacks** was voted in as Vice President.

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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(Classified Administrator) - **Pamela Milleson**, Director of Food Services

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **NONE TO REPORT**

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **Sara Reser**, Para-Educator, Pioneer, 1.5 years

**Erica Swingholm**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 2.5 years

### • Out-of-State Travel

**John Butenhoff** to Energy Management Seminar in New Orleans, LA (funding - Energy Management)

**Karen Dazell** to National Vocational Conference in Orlando, FL (funding - No cost except for substitute teacher)

**Mike Martin** to NAAE Conference in Orlando, FL (funding - No cost except for substitute teacher)

**Don Wilkins** to National Athletic Director Conference in Indianapolis, IN (funding - Directors National Convention)

**Gayle See** to Project Director's Meeting for PEP Grant in Washington, DC (funding - Directors National Convention)

### Quote of the Week

"Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

## Sharpstein students personalize conferences

As parents flocked to Sharpstein for their annual fall conferences with Sharpstein Fourth Grade Teacher **Terri Gilbert**, it became immediately apparent this year's parent conferences would be different.

Parents soon realized much of the discussion about their child would be led by their son or daughter.

Gilbert, joined by three of her students at last night's board meeting, reported her efforts to get her students involved in the conference process.

Students used easy to read powerpoint presentations to report this parent conference technique. Board members assumed the role of

parents as the Sharpstein student reported their progress to date. Students listed various goals they set at the beginning of the school year and then reflected on their own progress.

Gilbert said this method promotes ownership, pride and participation. She said 100 percent of her parents attended conferences this fall. She said it also helps build positive relationships between her students and their parents.

Students also enhance their writing, technology and speaking skills by becoming more involved in conferences.

## Wa-Hi staff collaboration plan aims to improve student learning and teaching

Armed with a comprehensive planning calendar jam packed with activities scheduled through the remainder of the school year, Wa-Hi Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel** reported highlights of the school's staff collaboration plan.

Gobel said weekly collaboration activities made available through the Wednesday late start days are improving communication and providing continuity to professional development efforts.

Wa-Hi's collaboration plan is based on four sections: *District Day* (activities designated by the District Office), *Building Day* (activities planned and implemented by each building), *Department Day* (activities developed and implemented by each department) and *Team Day* (activities developed and implemented by various "teams").

Gobel was especially excited about the Team Day concept. She said more than 30 "teams" have been created to specialize in various content areas all designed to improve achievement.

## Celebrate American Education Week!

**November 17-21**

More than 100 community members will visit Walla Walla Public Schools, Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon to celebrate American Education Week. Walla Walla Public Schools organized this event to showcase district educational programs and discuss issues with community members. Special thanks to our school principals, staff and students for helping make this community awareness event successful.

Approximately 10 people from various career backgrounds will visit each school for the two-hour celebrations. Let's make them feel welcome as our special guests.

"Pleasure in the job puts perfection in the work."

**Aristotle**

**Thanks for all you do for Walla Walla children!**

### Citizens for Schools meeting tonight

*Community Meeting*

• November 19 - 6:30 p.m.,

Whitman College Memorial Bldg, Rm 316

**Cindy Meyer**

529-0952

**Bob Hill**

522-7087

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**'Keeping Our Team Informed'**