

Symposium 2004 first step to new vision

Superintendent **Rich Carter** thanked the group of nearly 100 community members, students, staff and parents which met last month on the campus of Whitman College for *Symposium 2004* to discuss the future of Walla Walla Public Schools during a report to school board members last night.

“This Strategic visioning event was successful in large part due to their involvement,” Carter said. “It was inspiring for me to witness stakeholders, policy makers, and school leaders working toward a common goal of establishing a hopeful and ambitious vision of the future for Walla Walla children.”

This intensive, two-day Symposium was the first step in a long process to

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Rich Carter

Reflecting on Symposium 2004

take the school district to new heights of achievement and success.

The focus will now shift to getting outcomes from the Symposium communicated to even more Walla Walla citizens and staff.

“I am confident we will stand and deliver on a sound plan for the future that our Board of Directors will be proud to adopt and call its own,” Carter said after reflecting on the Symposium process.

October 5 • School Board Meeting Recap

Symposium 2004 - Next Steps

- Get more community, staff input
- Establish Core Leadership team to help design a new Strategic Plan
- School board, upon direct input and involvement, approves new plan
- Implementation of new strategic plan
- Develop action steps necessary to make new Strategic Plan uniquely suit Walla Walla’s needs
- Set aggressive benchmarks
- Monitor progress over time

Complete results from *Symposium 2004* will be posted on the district website later this week.

Wa-Hi students chart Blue Print for Tomorrow

When students enter Walla Walla High School they embark on a journey mapped out by their *Blueprint for Tomorrow* project, explained Wa-Hi Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel** during a report to school board members last night.

“This project is a graduation requirement for Wa-Hi students that is designed to help them obtain the most from their high school experience,” said Gobel, who is charged with leading and organizing this schoolwide project.

The *Blue Print for Tomorrow* allows students to achieve the Walla Walla High School exit outcome requirements and meets Washington State’s Accountability mandates.

Blue Print for Tomorrow Tasks

Maintain Portfolios

- student work
- academic history
- career plans
- citizenship
- personal goals

Culminating Project

Designed to apply their learning to the “real world”

Oral Presentation - During senior year

E-folio - Electronic use of the Discover website

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting September 21, 2004, Personnel and Out-of-State Travel Reports; 2004-2005 Highly Capable Grant Application.
- approved Wa-Hi Basic English Curriculum Instructional Materials.

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(*Certificated*) - **Brandi McIntire**, .6 FTE Math Teacher, Paine

(*Classified*) - **Beatriz Esquivel**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Headstart/ECEAP

Ky Hafen, Auditorium Coordinator, Wa-Hi

Maryelyn Hebel, Secretary to Business Manager, Business Office

Heather Michels, Special Education Para-Educator, Green Park

• Resignations/Retirements

NONE TO REPORT

• Out-of-State Travel

Rick Nebeker to NAESP Conference in Baltimore, MD (*funding - AWSP, Principals travel, Personal*)

Quote of the Week

“Facts by themselves are nothing. It is through teaching that they become something real, something students can grasp and use to sharpen their tomorrows.”

Anonymous

New reading program improves skills

The district is on track to have 85 to 90 percent of students reading at grade level within three years, according to a report to school board members last night by Title One Coordinator **Judy Peasley** on the district’s new *Literacy First* Reading Program

Peasley said the program relies heavily on teacher training and support from administration to stress the importance of building reading skills. The district is focusing its *Literacy First* efforts at secondary grade levels.

Teachers involved in the program will learn improved instructional strategies, how to better help struggling readers, and techniques for getting parents more involved with reading at home.

Literacy First is a comprehensive, research-based three-year change process designed to ensure 85-90 percent of students are reading on grade level by the end of three years.

Secondary Intensive Reading Team

Garrison Middle School

Richelle Palmer Jenny Howard
Barbara Doherty Gloria Camp
Karen Okerlund Esteban Florian
Nancy Watkins Grace Ogoshi
Chris Blackman Lance Longmire

Pioneer Middle School

Richelle Palmer Angie Gardea
Kenny Renner-Singer Carrie Phipps
Deborah Wright Bev Ziska
Deborah Smith Lynn Junke

Walla Walla High School

Mary Matau Julie Johnson
Kim Cassetto Julie Gaffney
Mary Schumacher John Stilson

Secondary Content Reading Team

Garrison Middle School

Gayle Kinman Stacy McPherson
John Bussink Jami Bigley
Conner Fish Beth Clearman
Teresa Mobley Jill Meliah
Audra Pearce
(Richelle Palmer, SIS)

Pioneer Middle School

Rilke Bushey Keenan Failing
Shannon Farrelly Dawn Jepson
Ken Jepson Kristy Goin
Cheryl Herr
Shannon DeBeaumont
(Richelle Palmer, SIS)

Walla Walla High School

Casey Monahan Analiese Stein
Lenna Kopf Chad Kopf
Jimmy Hill Diana Erickson
John Herr Sherry McConn
Karen Peddicord Dusti Rogers
(Mary Matau, SIS)

Wa-Hi students make up credits during Summer School session

With a Summer School goal of helping 32 Wa-Hi students earn 43 credits, a report last night to school board members from **Sherry McConn** revealed the program was successful.

Using Plato Courseware to offer students computer-based individualized instruction and a few of Wa-Hi’s talented teachers, 29 students were able to earn 39 credits in the “Basics and Beyond” summer school program. McConn thanked Assistant Principal **Mira Gobel** for her leadership and all those involved for making it a success.

Berney Elementary Centennial

100th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 14
6:30 p.m.

Location: Berney Elementary

Special thanks to Principal **David Talley** and Learning Specialist **Susan Meiners** for providing a report last night to the school board on the school’s upcoming Centennial Celebration.

4th Annual Children’s Forum

The Valley’s Children 2004

Thursday, October 7

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Wa-Hi Auditorium and Commons

Friday, October 8

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WWCC Conference Center

Online information: www.thevalleychildren.org