

Sharpstein earns architectural award

John Evans of Architects West presented Board President **Tim Donaldson** with a plaque recognizing Sharpstein Elementary School for being named one of the Outstanding Buildings (renovation/modernization category) in the November 2003 issue of American School and University magazine.

Built in 1898, the brick, three story building continues a tradition of excellence in this historic neighborhood school that has served numerous generations of Walla Walla children.

The design required the demolition of the 1950 additions and the purchase of adjacent homes for additional playground and parking space. The new lobby encloses an elegant masonry arch that was the school's original back door.

School safety enhancements include separate busing areas and parent pick up/release areas and modern alarm systems. Modern heating and cooling systems make learning spaces comfortable throughout the school year.

The modernization project has allowed Sharpstein to remain a viable part of the community for decades.

School Board Meeting Recap • January 20**Replacement Levy on Feb. 3 ballot**

Superintendent **Rich Carter** shared highlights of his community M&O Levy PowerPoint presentation with school board members last night. Carter has made nearly 30 presentations to staff and community groups to provide information on the district's February 3 replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy.

Carter summarized to board members efforts being made by the district to inform the community about the levy. Information went out to community members last week in the *Focus on Education* newsletter and the official district fact sheet will be mailed early next week. Students will be walking information home to their parents over the next few days. Information is also available online at: www.wcps.org.

Key Levy Facts

- Election date - February 3 (polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
- Supermajority (60 percent yes required for approval)
- Supported in Walla Walla for more than 30 years
- Replacement levy (voters in 2002 approved similar levy)
- Four year proposal (financial stability, saves money & time)
- Helps maintain essential educational programs & activities
- Lowers class size (pays for 27 teachers / 50 classified staff)
- Provides technology enhancements and opportunities
- All levy dollars stay in Walla Walla
- This proposed M&O Levy provides approximately 13% of the operating budget. Additional funding contingent on levy passage, together with the proposed M&O Levy, make up about **17%** of the district's operating budget.

Please remember to vote!**In other School Board meeting business...**

January 20 • Board Meeting

Board members:

- approved Dec. 16, 2003 board meeting minutes; Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; and Payment of January bills and payroll.
- received board district committee assignments for 2004.

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) - **Heather Cruz**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Preschool

Alma DeLaRosa, Bilingual Para-Educator, Paine Migrant Preschool

Kelly Gabel, Print Shop Operator, Communications Department

Adriana Hernandez, Bilingual Para-Educator, Paine Migrant Preschool

Thomas Hull, Bus Driver, Transportation

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) - **Jaci Hoppen**, Copy Center/Computer Lab Technician, Wa-Hi, 13.5 years

• Leave of Absence

(Certificated) - NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) - **JoAnne Savage**, Library Technician, Wa-Hi, 13 years

(JoAnne has been on leave for the first semester and is requesting an extension for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year.)

• Out-of-State Travel

Sue Hansen to National AAHPERD Conference in New Orleans, LA (funding - Professional Growth)

Genie Huntemann to Writing Workshop in Montpelier, VT (funding - Professional Growth)

Vincent Jimenez and **Jeff Weeks** to NASSP National Conference in Orlando, FL (funding - Administrative Match and Principal's Travel)

Pamela McBride to National Conference of Murdock Partners in Science in San Diego, CA (funding - Murdock Grant)

Glen Mitchell to National Music Educators Biennial In-Service Conference in Minneapolis, MN (funding - Directors' National Conference)

Quote of the Week

"You cannot create experience.
You must undergo it."

Albert Camus

Energy Management program saves district \$1 million

Under the leadership and watchful eyes of manager **John Butenhoff**, the district's Energy Management Program has saved the district more than \$1 million in utilities costs since its beginning in 1999.

According to his report last night, Walla Walla Public School is one of just four districts in the state to support a comprehensive Energy Management Program. Butenhoff thanked the school board for having the vision to begin this program and praised staff for their positive spirit to become more energy efficient.

Butenhoff said the program hinges on turning off lights when they're not needed and avoiding heating and

cooling unoccupied areas.

Butenhoff closely reviews all utilities bills (water, natural gas, electricity) to ensure the statements are accurate and to determine if conservation practices are working. He noted these efforts have resulted in the Energy Management Program receiving more than \$110,000 in refunds and rebates.

Butenhoff said some of the savings from the program are being used to enhance energy management technology to make district buildings even more efficient.

He said district energy consumption continues to go down which helps offset rising utilities costs.

School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent **Rich Carter** thanked School Board members for their commitment to public education and Walla Walla children to celebrate School Board Recognition Month. Board members were presented with tokens of appreciation from students and staff. Board members also received treats to snack on after their regularly scheduled meeting.

Board members Tim Donaldson (President), Dr. Richard Jacks (Vice President), Mary Jo Geidl, Anne Golden and Toni Rudnick are an elected body of respected community members who are responsible for the direction of the schools.

The board is the authority for local school regulations, policy, programs, and procedures within the framework of state law. Thanks for a job well done!

Whitman mentoring program focuses on math and reading

With a national and state push to improve math and reading skills, **Debbie Conklin** of Whitman College reported to school board members last night on an exciting mentoring partnership that is making a difference in area schools.

The Whitman Mentoring Program places college students in district schools to work one-on-one or in

small groups with students to improve math and reading skills.

Funded by federal work study dollars, the mentoring program supports 70 interns at 13 sites throughout Walla Walla. Interns work 6 to 12 hours per week.

Last year the district received 7,000 free hours of tutoring and is over 4,000 hours this year.

Citizens for Schools events schedule Silent Auction/Dinner

- Saturday, January 24 - 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Walla Walla Fairgrounds Community Bldg.

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To submit materials for this publication, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins:

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'