

August 24 • School Board Meeting Recap

Board approves 2004-2005 budget

Spending adjustments help district offset funding cuts

School board members last night unanimously approved a \$46,688,055 general fund budget for the 2004-05 school year.

The 2004-05 budget maintains a four percent cash reserve cushion, well within the school board's mandated three to five percent range.

Cash reserves are projected to take a \$1.2 million hit this fiscal year, but the district was able to preserve established class sizes, maintain existing staffing levels and offer the same level of core curricular subjects and electives.

The budget allows for a \$200,000 funding allowance for a Social Studies Curriculum adoption and other curriculum needs.

"We're excited about offering these resources to enhance our offerings and ultimately improve student academic achievement," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said.

The general fund budget is

based on a student enrollment count of 5,611. Business Manager **Aron Rausch** said some expenditure adjustments were made this budget cycle to help align revenues with expenditures.

"This is a proactive approach to help us maintain our goal of having fiscal stability," Rausch said. "We are forming a broad-based budget review committee this year consisting of staff, parents, and community members to further study the district's budget and help prioritize funding needs."

The Washington State Legislature cut funding for Walla Walla Public Schools nearly \$500,000 last biennium, a recent trend for state schools.



Aron Rausch

Carter praises staff for getting schools ready for area students

Superintendent **Rich Carter** told school board members how proud he was of the district staff for getting schools ready to serve students on opening day.

"When students come through the doors on opening day they will be greeted from the heart," Carter said. "It took a tremendous team effort to accomplish all the projects and tasks necessary over the summer break to be ready for this day. I would put our staff up against any in the state for efficiency, professionalism and dedication."

Golden named to state special education committee

State Superintendent of Public Instruction **Dr. Terry Bergeson** appointed school board member **Anne Golden** to serve on the state's Special Education Advisory committee.

Golden, who served as president of the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) in 2003, will provide leadership to the committee charged with ensuring Special Education programs are meeting today's needs. Golden has been a member of the Walla Walla Public Schools board for 16 years.

Garrison Night School to be featured

Garrison Night School was recently selected to be included as a featured presentation at this fall's state school board conference. This presentation was shown last spring at the National School Board annual conference in Florida.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of: regular board meeting July 20, 2004, special board meeting August 6, 2004, Executive Session August 11, 2004; and Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; I-728 Plan; 2004-2005 Title IV/Safe & Drug-Free Schools Grant Application; Resolution #6-2004, Budget Transfers; Student Handbooks; Out-of-State student tuition; and payment of August bills and payroll.
- approved an interlocal purchasing co-op agreement (Food Service).
- approved Resolution #7-2004 - 2004-2005 Budget (see more details above).
- approved the district's revised Workplace Diversity Plan.
- listened to the first reading of proposed new Policy No. 3115 -Homeless Students: Enrollment rights and services.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Certificated) - **Jill Meliah**, Language Arts, Garrison
Erin Moreno, Bilingual Kindergarten, Prospect Point
Carina Stillman, English, Wa-Hi
(Classified) - **Jesus Lomeli**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Pioneer
Maria Remington, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Preschool
Leticia Dankel, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **Mark Grimm**, Math, Paine Alternative, 2 years
David Williams, First Grade, Berney, 22 years
JoAnne Savage, Library Tech, 14 years

• Out-of-State Travel

Arch McHie to National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY (*funding - Vocational*)
Darle Smith to Managing Health & Nutrition Institute in Nashville, TN (*funding - Headstart*)

Quote of the Week

"If we want to grow as teachers,
we must learn to talk to each
other about our inner lives, our
own identity and integrity."

Anonymous

Please welcome our new Walla Walla Public Schools employees *(or new positions)*

Administrative

Lloyd Commander, Director of Preschool Programs, Blue Ridge
Pam Milleson, Director of Food Service, Food Service
Jennifer Douglas, Director of Health Services, Paine (District-wide)
Bill Jordan, Exec. Director of Personnel, Administration
Oscar Graybill, Dir. of Teaching & Learning, Administration
Joanne Martin, Supervisor of School Improvement, Administration
Len Taruscio, Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction, Administration
Dana Rosenbach Jones, Principal, Pioneer
Jon Abbott, Assistant Principal, Pioneer
Chris Gardea, Assistant Administrator, Prospect Point

Elementary Schools

Scott Ford, Berney, PE Specialist
Ben Ugaldea, Berney, Library Media Specialist
Leticia Dankel, Blue Ridge, Para-Educator
Elia Jimenez, Blue Ridge Preschool, Family Service Worker
Griselda Patino, Blue Ridge Preschool, Para-Educator
Maria Remington, Blue Ridge Preschool, Para-Educator
Magdalena Gutierrez, Blue Ridge Preschool, Family Service Worker

Colleen Chamberlain, Green Park, Special Education
Ian Gregoire, Green Park, Para-Educator
Jennifer Harshman, Green Park, Para-Educator
Gaby Horn, Green Park, Para-Educator
Diane Mires, Green Park, 4th Grade

Heather Babbitt, Prospect Point, 4th Grade
Stephen Butler, Prospect Point, Para-Educator
Carolyn Dietzman, Prospect Point, Health Clinician
Steve Droke, Prospect Point, Special Education
Erin Moreno, Prospect Point, Bilingual Kindergarten
Deborah Prior, Prospect Point, Food Service Assistant

Elizabeth Razo, Sharpstein, Bilingual 3rd
Sandra Bushnell, Special Programs, SLP
Carolyn Shanks, Special Programs, SLP

Middle Schools

Chris Blackman, Special Education, Garrison
Ginger Calvario, Assistant Secretary, Garrison
Diane Cherry, Food Service Assistant, Garrison
Roger Garcia, Band, Garrison
Crystal Holmes, PE Specialist, Garrison
Jill Meliah, Language Arts, Garrison
Monica Nelson, Math, Garrison
Richelle Palmer, Literacy Trainer, Garrison
Audra Pearce, LA/Social Studies, Garrison
Brandy Ulberg, Para-Educator, Garrison
Maria Alonso, Food Service Assistant, Pioneer
Rilke Bushey, Math/Social Studies, Pioneer
Jesus Lomeli, Para-Educator, Pioneer
Marie Spalding, Para-Educator, Pioneer

Support Staff

Kelly Gabel, Printer, Print Shop
DeeDee Delaney, Accounts Payable, Business Office
Roger Hicks, Bus Driver, Transportation
Tom Hull, Bus Driver, Transportation
David Schaub, Bus Driver, Transportation
Yvonne Warner, Para-Educator, Transportation

High School

Anne Wallace-Curry, English, Paine
Craig Buchanan, Auto Mechanics, Wa-Hi
Terry Carlsen, Chemistry, Wa-Hi
Jennifer Cisneros, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi
Rodney Dyer, Custodian, Wa-Hi
Stephanie Eastman, Secretary, Wa-Hi
Diana Erickson, ESL, Wa-Hi
Lori Finn, Career Counselor/Bus Ed, Wa-Hi
Alicia Garza, Assistant Secretary, Wa-Hi
Velma Gilliam, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi
Casey Monahan, English, Wa-Hi
Gay Buissink, Business Education, Wa-Hi
Carina Stillman, English, Wa-Hi
John Stilson, English, Wa-Hi
Sarah Stone, Assistant Secretary/Computer Lab, Wa-Hi
Evelyn Wallace, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi