

Teacher Appreciation Day Salute*By Rich Carter*

May 4 is Teacher Appreciation Day. Please join me in saluting the outstanding work of our Walla Walla Public Schools teachers. They are there for our children, often under trying circumstances and not always with the resources they need for each child.

Without the hard work of teachers, the scientists, artists, and political and social leaders in this country would not be among the best in the world. Our public school system continues to be closely examined. Education experts and government leaders have suggested all kinds of ways to strengthen our education

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system. One of those ways is by showing respect and support for our teachers.

They perform daily miracles in their classrooms. Remember back to the years when a teacher or teachers positively touched your life. Our teachers are working to improve student achievement. Walla Walla has made considerable progress in raising student achievement and finding ways for all students to be successful learners. Much of this progress can be attributed to our qualified and dedicated teachers.

Let's take time to say "thanks" to Walla Walla teachers for their commitment to making our community a better place to live. I'm proud to have the privilege of serving with these proven professionals.

Classes held Friday to make up lost snow day

School will be in session this Friday to make up for the January 7 snow day.

Walla Walla Public Schools kept staff and students home January 7 due to a severe winter storm. The district also delayed school two-hours January 5, 6 and 15.

School Board Meeting Recap • May 4**Rausch reviews preliminary budget***Reports cash fund balance on decline*

In a report to the school board last night, Business Manager Aron Rausch provided a preliminary budget overview for the 2004-2005 school year.

Rausch said early indications project more expenditures than revenue sources. He said enrollment will be budgeted at 20 fewer students based on trend studies.

"Walla Walla Public Schools is solid financially, but we will have to start finding ways to limit expenditures and reallocate existing costs," Rausch said. "Our cash fund balance is projected to decline and is approaching the established board minimum of 3 percent."

The Business Office will conduct a public budget work session early this summer to further review the budget. The district's general fund budget is expected to be near \$47 million next school year.

District budget guidelines

1. The Budgeting process will support our Mission and Strategic Plan.
2. Academic needs of students are our highest priority.
3. Academic standards for student learning and performance assessment will be maintained.
4. A fund balance at least in the 3 to 5 percent range will be maintained per Board direction.
5. Conservative student enrollment projections will be used.
6. Required services will be maintained; i.e., insurance, accounting systems, transportation, utilities, and necessary levels of service.

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

- approved April 20, 2004 board meeting minutes; and Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; Issuance of 2004-2005 Contracts and Notices of Employment and call for bids for dairy products.

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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Administrative) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **Dee Dee Delaney**, Accounts Payable Technician, Business Office
David Schaub, Bus Driver, Transportation

• Resignations/Retirements

(Administrative) - **Josh Almy**, Assistant Principal, Pioneer, 4 years

Lyla Reibel, Principal, Pioneer, 18 years (31 years in public education)

(Certificated) - **Renee Almy**, 2nd grade teacher, Prospect Point, 2 years

Kay Jamison, ESL teacher, Wa-Hi, 5 years (12.5 years as registrar at Wa-Hi prior to teaching)

(Classified) - **Belinda Backous**, Intervention Specialist, Sharpstein, 2 years

Heather Cruz, Para-Educator, Preschool, 4 months

• Out-of-State Travel

Kay Barga and **Charleen Kaaen** to National Conference on Best Practices for Looping and Multiage Classrooms in Columbus, OH (funding - I-728)

Kristy Goin, **Shannon DeBeaumont** and **Bryan Eggart** to Connected Math Training in East Lansing, MI (funding - I-728)

Chris Ferez to AP Calculus Institute in Sacramento, CA (funding - School Improvement)

Kate Venneri to 4th Grade Mathematics - Range Finding in East Lansing, MI (funding - OSPI)

Quote of the Week

“To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labor.”

Robert L. Stevenson

School board members tune up Spanish skills during tour of Sharpstein’s dual language program

Coffman reviews Waterford computer reading program

School board members toured Sharpstein Elementary last night prior to their regularly scheduled meeting to learn more about the Waterford Early Reading Program and the school’s new dual language program.

Title One Manager **Kerri Coffman** praised the Waterford Computer program for improving student achievement. She said data proves the animated, music filled, instructional program is working. She said the program allows students to work independently and makes learning fun.

Kindergarten teachers **Angie Martinez** and **Terry Morgan** provided an overview of the new dual language program. The program is designed to develop fluency in two languages, academic success in two languages, and gain positive cultural relationships. The program will expand each year through fifth grade.



School board member Anne Golden listens to Sharpstein Kindergarten students who are enrolled in the school’s dual language program tell about what they are learning.

Reibel announces plans to retire at end of school year

“After 31 years in education, 18 of them as an administrator at Pioneer Middle School, I am ready to hang up my cleats and turn off my computer,” Principal **Lyla Reibel** said in her retirement letter to the school board.

Reibel says she wants to spend more time with her family and explore new adventures. She thanked the district for giving her the opportunity to become an administrator and for helping her gain more skills.

Hernandez brothers revive staff cultural exchange visits to Mexico

Brothers Salvador (Garrison) and Javier (Wa-Hi) Hernandez love their hometown of Jungapeo, Mexico so much, they want other staff members to experience it. Board members approved allowing teachers to trade in six contract days to defray the costs of a month long cultural exchange to Jungapeo. Participants will live with Mexican families and speak Spanish to improve their skills. They will also attend schools, sightsee, and teach locals English. Six teachers are going this summer. They leave June 20 and return July 20.

Future Problem Solvers excel at state

School board members congratulated Walla Walla High School Future Problem Solving coach and Garrison Math Teacher **John Buissink** and his team members for their success during last month’s state competition. The senior team took the state title in the 10-12 grade level and qualified for the International Competition in Kentucky.

The Future Problem Solving Program is a year-long instructional program that challenges students to solve hypothetical problems set in the future but based on issues of today.

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‘Keeping Our Team Informed’