

Wa-Hi Accreditation focuses on achievement

Pendleton reports self study helped hone school's mission

"We're busy helping kids," said a nearly out of breath Wa-Hi Principal **Brian Pendleton** after recapping measure after measure being taken at Walla Walla High School to improve student achievement during his report to school board members on Wa-Hi's two-year self study Accreditation Process and School Improvement Plan.

During the 75 minute presentation, Pendleton said he is confident the staff are united in their efforts to improve student achievement. He went on to say the school's student and staff climate is healthy and staff have a clear sense of their mission and expectations.

"We're a team and we're working hard," he said.

Pendleton had a lot of support during his presentation. Science Chair **Rob Ahrens**, English Teacher **Mary Matau**, Math Chair, **Kathy Keatts**, Shared Leadership Committee member **Carol Morgan**, Assistant Principals **Mira Gobel**, **Kirk Jameson**, **Ron Higgins** and **Mark Agrellas** all participated and provided expertise and substance to the message.

Graduation remains June 3

Survey results from Wa-Hi parents and students reveal Friday, June 3 remains the date of choice for this year's commencement ceremony.

Board members supported the results. A conflict with spring sports state competitions on June 3 caused concern and prompted the survey.

November 2 • School Board Meeting Recap

Strategic Planning team ready to work

With the abundance of ideas from this fall's successful Community Symposium the district is now set to take the feedback harvested during the two-day event, and that of all staff and additional community members, and develop the a new vision-driven strategic plan.

In a report to board members last night, Superintendent **Rich Carter** said he has finalized his Strategic Planning "Core Team" of community members, staff, parents, students, administrators and board members. The group of nearly 40 strong will hold its first meeting tonight, November 3.

"They have been selected for this project because of their deep desire to see our school district reach new heights of success," Carter said. "The pace will be swift as we have established an aggressive timeline to accomplish this monumental task. I'm expecting us to roll up our sleeves and get right to work."

Carter has secured the services of former Deputy Superintendent **Judy Reault**, through her new position with ESD 123, to act as the facilitator. Carter plans to have a draft plan before the school board in December and develop action steps necessary to make the new Strategic Plan uniquely suit Walla Walla's needs early next year.

The Strategic Planning schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, November 3 – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 15 – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 8 – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 14 – 6:00 to 7:15 p.m.
(school board work session)

Board members set to take show on the road

In an effort to get more community input regarding the district's strategic planning efforts and facilities needs, school board members are planning work sessions at various district school sites in the coming months.

Edison Elementary will host

the next board work session, Tuesday, November 16 from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. in the school's gym. The regularly scheduled board meeting will then be held in the Edison Library.

Future board work sessions and locations will be announced as they are determined.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting October 19, 2004, Personnel and Out-of-State Travel Reports; High School Special Services Imprest Fund.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) - **Brenda Barraza**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

• Resignations/Retirements

(Classified) - **Melody Jones**, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi, 7 years
Yolanda White, Parent Involvement Coordinator, 5 years

(Resignation of .5 of her position - she is still an employee)

• Out-of-State Travel

Diane Briggs to National AAHPERD Conference in Chicago, IL (funding - Professional Growth)

Dave McClelland to Western Region DECA Leadership Conference in Phoenix, AZ (funding - Vocational)

Chris Gardea to NCTM Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA (funding - Administrators Travel)

Nancy Withycombe to Nat'l Elementary & Middle School Principals Con. in Baltimore, MD (funding - Principals Travel)

Quote of the Week

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

FFA Floral Team places second in nation

School board members congratulated Wa-Hi's FFA Floral team for its second place finish at last week's National Convention in Louisville, KY.

The Floral Team of Erica Rice, Sarah Ziegler, Alison Knight and Jill Bughi competed against 188 contestants.

Advisor Arch McHie said the students' hard work and commitment to excellence paid off.

FFA Floral Team members earned \$1,600 in scholarship money, bringing the total dollars earned from national competitions in the last five years to \$17,400.

Board members also honored the

2004 FFA State Champion Tractor Driving Team for taking the title five out of the last seven years.

CTE Agriculture Teacher **Mike Martin** reported to school board members on a visit from numerous educators from Holland. The group visited Walla Walla earlier this year to learn more about how the program motivates students to work hard, get the community involved, and offer relevant training to students.

Martin said the program helps prepare students for work in Walla Walla's vast Agriculture sector which makes up 33% of area jobs.

Pioneer students unite at Stars Camp

Pioneer Counselor **David Tegtmeier** reported to school board members how Pioneer sixth grade students learned about diversity, respect and how to get along with each other during *Stars Camp*.

This fast and furious mountain getaway to Camp Wooten is designed to help students build school unity and pride according to her presentation.

She showed a PowerPoint presentation with numerous photos of students and staff having a great time playing games, learning and laughing.

Stars Camp Highlights

- 200 Pioneer sixth grade students participated
- Location - Camp Wooten, near Dayton, WA
- Designed for students to get to know each other
- Students also attend anti-bullying work sessions
- Fun - games, swimming, hiking and more!

District principals serve hard time for March of Dimes



Green Park Principal **Mike Lambert** (L) and Wa-Hi Principal **Brian Pendleton** (R) await precious bail money during last month's March of Dimes "Jail & Bail" fund raising program.

The principals were forced to raise "bail" in the form of fund raising dollars to get released from the Blue Mountain Mall "jail."

Berney Principal **David Talley** also participated in the program to help fund research for birth defects and other genetic disorders through the March of Dimes.

Thanks for supporting this great cause.

Celebrate American Education Week

Thursday, November 18

10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Visit the school of your choice

Help us find more participants! They will...

- tour the school of their choice
- learn more about our successes and challenges
- interact with students and staff
- review school improvement efforts

We'll even treat them to lunch!

Please contact Communications Director Mark Higgins if you know someone who might be interested in participating.

The **10/10 Staff Newsletter** is published three times per month by the Walla Walla Public Schools Communications Department.

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

- Telephone: 526-6716
- E-mail: mhiggins@wwps.org

'Keeping Our Team Informed'