

January 17 • School Board Meeting Recap

District begins bond information efforts

Superintendent **Rich Carter** reported to school board members on communication efforts regarding the May 16 bond issue.

Website: Fact sheet, conceptual designs, photo slide shows, bond budget, and more now online. (www.wwps.org)

Staff Meetings: Carter will be meeting with all staff members in the next few weeks to review the bond information.

Publications: Bond information is being included in Key Communicator and Chamber of Commerce newsletters, the Focus on Education publication and staff newsletters.

E-Mail: Bond “Tidbits” sent out daily to staff to highlight issues and needs relating to the May 16 bond.

Week in Review: More than 500 people are now signed up for this e-mail news service and are getting regular messages on the bond. Staff members also get these e-mail messages.

Community Presentations: Several community presentations each week are now being scheduled. Yesterday the district met with the WW Valley Chamber of Commerce board, today the district meets with the Community Center for Youth board and next week with the Pioneer PTA and Port of Walla Walla economic development committee.

Citizens for Schools: Jim Hayner is chairing this citizens group. Carl Tyler is leading advertising efforts and is expected to begin media coverage the first week of February.

District continues to trim energy costs

District Energy Manager **John Butenhoff** delivered good news to the school board last night in his “Year Six” end of year report.

Butenhoff reported the district saved more than \$288,000 last year through the district’s comprehensive energy management program, pushing total savings since the program’s inception in 2000 to \$1.5 million.

Butenhoff credited staff members’ energy ethics as the key to the positive results which have helped the district trim consumption by more than 25 percent.

Butenhoff noted an 82 percent rise in natural gas rates, a 42 percent increase for electricity and 33 percent spike in water and sewer costs are keeping the pressure on to continue finding ways to conserve.

Butenhoff is constantly reviewing and tracking energy bills to find more ways to save. He also provides training and implements best practices for the energy saving programs.

He thanked the school board for supporting the program and said it’s making a positive difference.

January is School Board Recognition Month

Superintendent **Rich Carter** thanked the school board and presented them with plaques for a job well done.

Schools made posters and other keepsakes to show their appreciation to the school board.

- Mary Jo Geidl, President
- Anne Golden, Vice President
- Tim Donaldson
- Cindy Meyer
- Toni Rudnick

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meetings of December 13, 2005, Personnel and Out of State Travel Report, Resolution #1-2006, Budget Extension, and Payment of January bills and payroll.
- approved the purchase of the Falbo property west of Wa-Hi to support plans to expand the school’s footprint to enhance learning opportunities. More than half of the \$315,000 to purchase the five acres was paid for through private donations.
- received communications on their ongoing committee assignments for 2006. (see Friday’s Week in Review for positions)
- received notification the district met Basic Education Entitlement Compliance requirements. (former - M-808)

Personnel Report

• New Hires -

(Classified) **Alma De La Rosa**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Wa-Hi
Ron Gonzales, Bus Driver, Transportation
Linda Knowles, Bus Driver, Transportation
Kem Jones, Bus Driver, Transportation
Yara Martinez, Bilingual Para-Educator, Green Park
Armin Schulz, Bus Driver, Transportation

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Jeannie Boschker**, Special Ed. Teacher, Green Park, 3 years
• (Jeannie served as an Occupational Therapist Assistant for 13 years)
Lisa Braddock, LAP Teacher, Berney, 17 years
• (Lisa is resigning .1 FTE of her position and will continue at .6 FTE)
Jim Ebding, Career Choices/Vocational Teacher, Wa-Hi, 31 years
Ken Hays, Business/Marketing Education Teacher, Wa-Hi, 1 year
Jacqueline George, Library Media Specialist, Garrison Middle School, 30 years
Shirley Hixson, Home/Family Life Teacher, Garrison Middle School, 9 years
Glen Mitchell, Director of Music/Music Teacher, Wa-Hi, 33 years
Meredith Mitchell, Music Teacher, Edison Elementary, 5 years
Stephanie St. Clair, Music Teacher, Prospect Point, 5 years
Jane Anne Warren, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs, 13 years

(Classified) **Stephen Hagen**, Transportation Coordinator, Transportation, 6 years
Miguel Martinez, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 5 months
Matt Stroe, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi, 3.5 years

• **Out of State Travel - Dan Johnson** to School Dude University in Myrtle Beach, SC (Funding - Facilities Support Travel)
Mike Martin and **Arch McHie** to FFA Leadership Retreat in Camp Elkaneh, OR (Funding - No cost to district)
Lori Finn to WBITE Conference in Honolulu, HI (Vocational/WSBEA)

Camp Fire programs provide safe, affordable care

Walla Walla Camp Fire Council Executive Director **Karen Wolf** and Board President **Rory McClellan** reported to school board members on how Camp Fire programs serve district students.

Camp Fire After-school programs are available at four of the district's elementary schools: Berney, Green Park, Prospect Point and Sharpstein. The program provides parents with affordable, safe after-school care. The program hinges on positive activities for youth with much of the supervision and instruction coming from Wa-Hi students who work part-time for Camp Fire.

Camp Fire also features a summer program at Wildwood Park, camping experiences at Camp Kiwanis and a Self-Reliance program to help young people build confidence and learn more about themselves. Wolf and McClellan thanked the school board for this partnership they said is working well in Walla Walla.



Did you know...

The proposed May 16 bond's monthly increase to taxpayers who own a \$150,000 home is about the cost of a movie out and a popcorn.

Based on 99 cents per \$1,000 of your property's value

Quote of the Week

"Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Transportation scores outstanding inspection

Congratulations to the Transportation Department for receiving a Certificate of Achievement from the Washington State Patrol for outstanding inspection results.

Inspections occurred during the Winter and Summer months last year according to a report from Transportation Director **Tom Head**.

"The Washington State Patrol school bus inspection team and I wish to commend your district and those persons responsible for the maintenance of your buses for the outstanding bus inspection," said **Jan Clarence**, Region IV Transportation Coordinator.

Red Cross thanks school district for support

American Red Cross Blue Mountain Chapter Executive Director **Terry Hackney** reported to school board members last night on the district's successful fundraising efforts to support disaster relief efforts. Hackney said district schools donated more than \$10,000 to the cause.

Hackney will visit area schools to present Certificate of Appreciation keepsakes as a thank you for the efforts. He said he was proud of our staff and students and that the funding is making a difference.