

June 6 • School Board Meeting Recap

## Board reviews preliminary budget *District takes steps to trim spending*

After dipping into reserves to the tune of \$1.1 million last fiscal year to balance the General Fund budget, administrators and staff have worked as a team this school year to develop a budget for next year to bring expenditures in line with revenue.

Business Manager **Aron Rausch** said in his report last night to the school board members on the district's preliminary 2006-2007 budget the reductions were necessary to ensure fiscal stability.

This school year Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** and Assistant Superintendent **Linda Boggs** led the district through a budget trimming process which netted more than \$1 million in spending reductions.

This team effort to trim expenditures began last fall as Administrative Council members were briefed by Superintendent **Rich Carter** on the need to reduce spending to meet the school board's call for a three to five percent cash reserve.

After receiving direction, Jordan and Boggs began a series of meetings with staff to find ways to save money. Their efforts resulted in numerous internal personnel shifts and creative cost cutting efforts in supplies, equipment purchases and contractual services.

Through it all, no staff members lost their jobs through *Reduction In Force* maneuvers, as all staff adjustments were made through attrition from retirements or positions becoming vacant for other reasons.

Rausch said the preliminary 2006-2007 General Fund budget is balanced, except for approximately \$300,000 in special education expenses over revenue which is expected to correct itself once federal "Safety Net" dollars for those programs come in.

Rausch said the trend to continue reducing and re-prioritizing expenditures may remain for at least another budget year to ensure adequate cash reserves.

## Commencement 2006 - *The Sequel*



*Wa-Hi Senior Alex Anderson takes his graduation walk among many family members and friends during last night's school board meeting. A medical condition kept Anderson from participating in last Friday's ceremonies.*

### 2006-07 Budget Basics

**General Fund:** \$51,158,013

**Enrollment Projections:** 5,665 FTE (down 30)  
*(5,695 FTE projections for 05-06)*

**Staffing:** 397.4 Certificated / 237.8 Classified

**District Fiscal Year:** September 1 to August 31

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of the board meeting of May 16, 2006, Personnel and Out of State Travel Report, CTE Two-Year district plan, board meeting schedule July-December 2006, Resolution #4-2006, Deferral of Worker's Compensation Payment, 2006-2007 Contracts: Administrative and PSE.
- received a report on the district's Accountability Audit Report and Report on Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit from the State Auditor's Office. The Audit Summary concluded the district complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas examined. Also, internal controls were adequate to safely guard public assets.

Our Core Values  
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

**Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy**

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(*Certificated*) **Ronda Gabbard**, Music Teacher, Edison/Garrison

**Denise Hurst**, Music Teacher, Prospect Point

**Luz Phillips**, Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher, Prospect Point

**Patricia Verdun**, Business Education Teacher, Wa-Hi

(*Classified*) **David Black**, Special Education Para-Educator, Garrison

**Laura van Dyke**, Special Education Para-Educator, Sharpstein

**Erica Wauchek**, Special Education Para-Educator, Paine

### • Resignations/Retirements

(*Extracurricular*) **Brian Richard**, Athletic Director, Pioneer, 6 years

### • Leave of Absences

(*Certificated*) **Esteban Florian**, ESL Teacher, Garrison, 9 years

- Was on a leave of absence for the 2005-2006 school year to serve as Dean of Students and will continue this role.

**Jimmy Hill**, Math Teacher, Wa-Hi, 3 years

(*Classified*) **Arturo Tello**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 10.5 years

### • Out of State Travel

**Chris Eastep** to Nat. Athletic Trainer's Association 57th Mtg & Clinical Symposium in Atlanta, GA (*Funding - Prof. Growth*)

**Mike Gobel, Scott Magnaghi, Anne Swant** to National Council Supervisors - Math Leadership Academy in Park City, UT (*Funding - Curriculum*)

**Chris Neese Blackman** to Character Counts Train the Trainers Conference in Los Angeles, CA (*Funding - Prof. Growth*)

### Quote of the Week

"When you've done the best you can, you can't do any better."

Harry Truman

### Blue Ridge students study career possibilities

At Blue Ridge Elementary you're never too young to begin thinking about a profession as evidenced by the school's 5th Grade Careers Unit.

Led by teachers **Janifer Sams** and **Amy Hanson**, students have been challenged to think and plan for their futures. The unit is designed to making their learning purposeful and support this transition year from elementary to middle school.

Students designed informational posters to further support what they learned about their profession of interest. Several students attended the school board meeting and explained during their presentation why the profession they studied appealed to them. Becoming an educator seemed to be a big hit for many of the students!

### New Wa-Hi principal excited to be a Blue Devil

Community members and staff had a chance to meet new Wa-Hi Principal **Darcy Weisner** yesterday afternoon during a special welcoming event. He said he is anxious to carry on the school's proud tradition.

Weisner is in Walla Walla the next two days to help lead interview teams through the selection process for two new assistant principals. **Dr. Bill Jordan** said he hopes to have the assistant principals hired this month.

### Auditor officially certifies failed bond election

*Bond 2006 final election tallies:*

- 3,999 (Yes)
- 5,843 (No)
- 9,842 (Total)

**Approval percentage: 40.63%**

### All Staff Breakfast

Friday, June 9 - Wa-Hi Commons

7:15 a.m. (breakfast served)

8:00 a.m. (program begins)

*Program Highlights:*

- Retirement farewells
- Staff Achievement Grant recipients named
- Special WWVEA student awards

### School Board meeting dates set

- Tuesday, July 25
- Tuesday, August 22
- Tuesday, September 5
- Tuesday, September 19
- Tuesday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 17
- Tuesday, November 7
- Tuesday, November 21
- Tuesday, December 12

*(All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. -- unless changed by the school board.)*

### District sets summer program dates

**District Summer School**

June 19 to July 20

**Summer Institute** (*WASL Remediation Program*)

(offered by ESD 123 @ Wa-Hi) - June 28 to August 3

**Summer WASL Retakes**

August 7-10