

Bond Watch

District puts finishing touches on bond information video

School board members previewed a draft of the district's bond information video last night as Superintendent **Rich Carter** and Communications Director **Mark Higgins** briefed them on the May 16 bond information efforts.

The eight-minute video will be posted on the district website, played on Cable Channel 3, used to support bond presentations and shown at district special events. The information only video provides an overview of the May 16 bond and features various staff and community members.

Higgins also reported bond information kits will be delivered to each school this week for school information stations. Fact sheets in both English and Spanish will be available for handing out during Parent Conferences.

The district is also working to finalize bond information poster boards for display at various community locations and at all district schools. Sunday marks the first of five open houses and tours at Edison, Wa-Hi, Paine and Support Services from 1 to 3 p.m. Staff are encouraged to help spread the word about the tour schedule.

Bond 2006 • Building open houses & tours

The district will conduct five open house/tours at each of the four projects on the May 16 bond issue (Edison, Wa-Hi, Paine, and Support Services).

Open house/tour schedule:

Sunday, February 26 (1 to 3 p.m. -- each site)

Sunday, March 5 (1 to 3 p.m. -- each site)

Sunday, March 26 (1 to 3 p.m. -- each site)

Sunday, April 23 (1 to 3 p.m. -- each site)

Sunday, April 30 (1 to 3 p.m. -- each site)

February 21 • School Board Meeting Recap

School board considers supporting Richland School District WASL position

Last night school board members reflected on the recent presentation from the Richland School district regarding more local control over WASL testing and the possibility of using alternative assessments for grades other than 4, 7 and 10.

Richland School District board members traveled to Walla Walla last month to share information on their district's efforts to push legislation which would give them authority to use alternative assessments for grades 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9. Currently the state wants to add five WASL tests this spring in those grades.

The Richland School board feels state funding should be focused on teaching and learning, not assessment. They also believe the additional tests would be expensive, not provide useful data and be difficult to administer.

During last month's discussion, Richland School board members stressed they support state education standards, but question whether adding more tests is in the best interest of students.

Walla Walla board members said they support having more local control for using alternative assessments and said they would as individuals connect with elected officials to support this effort.

Legislation is in session through the second week of March. Status of the Richland School District inspired legislation is still pending.

February is Black History Month

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of February 7, 2006, Personnel and Out of State Travel Report, Interlocal Agreement for Investments, Middle School Enrollment caps, and payment of February Bills and Payroll.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires -

(Classified) **Angie Escoto**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge
Jose Godinez, Bilingual Para-Educator, Garrison

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Oscar Graybill**, Director of Teaching & Learning, Admin. Office, 2 years

- (Oscar resigns the position of Director of Teaching and Learning -- effective June 30)

(Classified) **Suzanne Sams**, Para-Educator, Edison Elementary, 19 years

• Leave of Absences

(Classified) **Susan Pearson**, Kindergarten Home Vistor, Berney Elementary, 15 years

- (remainder of the 2005-2006 school year)

• **Out of State Travel - Gerald Taylor** to Western US JROTC Championships in Colorado Springs, CO (*Funding - ROTC*)

Quote of the Week

"A successful team comes from mutual recognition."

Anonymous

Wa-Hi Advanced Placement students express their emotions on devastating hurricanes through writing

When 11th grade students in **Casey Monahan's** Advanced Placement English class at Wa-Hi were watching the devastation from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita unfold on their television sets, they had no idea they would one day publish their feelings on the events as a fundraiser to help the victims.

The students and their teacher were reflecting on the horrific disaster and asking how they could help. Monahan had a connection with a printing source, so her students decided to write essays on the topic and prepare them in a book for sale as a fundraiser. Thanks to a significant donation from the local printing company Color Press and a lot of hard work from the students and Monahan, the effort has netted nearly \$1,000 for the cause.

Board members said they were very impressed by the collection of the Wa-Hi Student Anthologies and each bought a book to support their efforts. Books are \$15 each and available at Earthlight Books or by contacting Monahan at Wa-Hi.

Graduate of Distinction nominations now accepted

Nominations are open for the 2006 Graduates of Distinction Program. All nominations and recommendation forms must be received in the district Curriculum Department by April 14, 2006.

The Walla Walla Public Schools' Graduates of Distinction program provides an avenue for recognizing local high school graduates who have distinguished themselves in their communities, professions, or careers, and to honor the district staff members who were the most inspirational in the lives of those individuals.

To be eligible for nomination, an individual must have graduated from high school in the Walla Walla Public Schools at least 10 years prior to nomination. Nominations will be held for five years, and will automatically be included in the selection process during that time. Call Kay Schisler at 526-6735 for more information.

Legislative Conference overview

Last week Superintendent Rich Carter traveled to Olympia to meet with area elected officials to discuss school related legislation.

Carter met with Senator Mike Hewitt, and Representatives Bill Grant and Maureen Walsh to discuss this year's "Hot Topics" information for legislators. Carter asked for support of Governor Gregoire's funding request for K-12 education -- specifically for the \$38.5 million to help students who have been unsuccessful in one or more subjects of the 10th grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning and \$3.4 million for math reform. He also pushed for more assistance to curb escalating fuel and energy costs.

Carter also requested a comprehensive study of K-12 finance, support of legislation to provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate WASL achievement through alternative assessment and simple majority for school elections.

Music Boosters sponsor Magic Show

The Music Boosters group is sponsoring Kevin Wolfe's Magic and Hypnosis Show Feb. 24 and 25 at the Wa-Hi Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 and all seating is general admission.

The proceeds will go to the Walla Walla Music Boosters and will be used to supplement the music budgets in our schools.

"This is going to be a wonderful show," District Fine Arts Director Glen Mitchell said. "Families are encouraged to attend. Kevin Wolfe has a great reputation. He's performed on stages throughout the country as well as numerous TV appearances."

Tickets will be sold at the door and may be purchased at several ticket outlets. For more information please call 526-5469.