

YMCA gains option to purchase Support Services land if voters approve proposed bond measure

Sherwood Trust commits to matching funds for YMCA future expansion plans

Any plans for a future YMCA expansion on Park Street will hinge greatly on a newly formed partnership with the district.

Board members last night granted the YMCA first right of refusal on the Park Street property currently housing the district's Support Services operations, should voters approve the proposed May 16 school bond.

"Our Walla Walla School District Board has developed a long-range facility strategy that will significantly improve the teaching en-

vironment of our local schools and address educational needs of the 21st Century," Walla Walla YMCA Board of Directors said in a statement on the recent partnership.

The Sherwood Trust has pledged a matching grant on a future YMCA expansion project on the Park Street property currently owned by the school district.

Plans for how the YMCA would develop the Park Street site have not been developed at this time.

"Approval of the bond will enable the School District to relocate its support services operations to the new high school campus.

"Such a move would increase the prospect of the YMCA's purchase of the two-acre parcel on Park Street for future expansion of its programs and activities.

"This concept has been supported by a matching grant from the Sherwood Trust that may be applied toward acquiring this land."

Ned Shafer

Executive Director, Walla Walla Family YMCA

February 7 • School Board Meeting Recap

Wa-Hi Leadership Camp changes lives

In what had to be one of the most emotionally moving school board meetings in some time, Wa-Hi students explained to school board members how last December's inaugural Leadership Camp changed their lives for the better.

Students, one after the other, repeated a common message that the camp was their most memorable high school experience and changed their outlook on life and how they treat others.

Students, some moved to tears, said they have more friends now and a better understanding of how other students are feeling. More than 60 students and nine teachers attended the first Winter Leadership Camp at Meadow Wood Springs Camp on Tollgate.

Students played games, conducted skits, reflected on their lives and talked about what they wanted to do in the future. They said the camp experience helped breakdown stereotypes and prejudices.

Assistant Principal **Kirk Jameson** provided the leadership to bring the camp concept to Walla Walla after being involved in similar experiences as a teacher in the Mead School District in Spokane. He said students learn who they really are and about forgiveness and understanding.

"It's the most powerful thing I've been involved with in my 14 years at Wa-Hi," Science teacher **Arthur Curry** said.

Leadership teacher **Lori Finn** also helped organize the camp. The next camp is set for March.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of January 17, 2006, Personnel and Out of State Travel Report, Resolution #2-2006, Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants, First Right of Refusal for Sale of Support Services Property.
- approved the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school year calendars. Calendar Committee chair Assistant Superintendent **Linda Boggs** thanked WWVEA President **Margaret Yount** and PSE President **Larry McCauley** for their leadership throughout the process. She also thanked other members of the committee for their input. Calendars will be sent out to staff soon.

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires -

(Classified) **Deborah Tolley**, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Alice Hollopeter**, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs, 8 years

- (effective at the end of the 05-06 school year)

(Classified) **Sara Avina-Garcia**, Bilingual Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Elementary, 5 months

Kem Jones, Bus Driver, Transportation, 2 days

Lisa Pontarolo, Food Service Assistant, Berney Elementary, 5 months

Jenny Wood, Food Service Assistant, Blue Ridge Elementary, 5 months

• Out of State Travel - **Dan Johnson** to School Dude University in Myrtle Beach, SC (Funding - Facilities Support Travel)

Karen Dazell and **Kathi DeBroeck** to Photoshop World Conference & Expo in Miami Beach, FL (Funding - Professional growth)

Lori Finn to NBEA Conference in Tampa, FL (Funding - Technology/WSBEA)

Lowell Schneider to CEFPI 4th Annual High Performance Schools Symposium in Scottsdale, AZ (Funding - Professional growth)

Quote of the Week

“Confidence is preparation. Everything else is beyond your control.”

Richard Kline

CASHE Conference helps Wa-Hi Latino students experience the college life

Wa-Hi students **Michelle Enriquez**, **Veronica Marin**, **Jasmin Lopez**, and **Francisco Garcia** reported to school board members last night on how their experiences at the CASHE (Children of Aztlan Sharing Higher Education) Conference are motivating them to do well in school.

Thirty-nine Wa-Hi students attended the conference at Washington State University to learn more about higher education opportunities. The experience is organized by college students to help Hispanic high school students get exposure to the college lifestyle. Students attended cultural workshops, leadership classes and learned how to apply for college and financial aid.

For Enriquez, the experience has motivated her to pursue a career in bilingual education. She said this conference helped give her the confidence and focus to pursue this career pathway.

Assistant Principal **Brandon Jensen** explained to school board members many of the students who attended the conference will be first generation college students. He said the college leaders who organized the conference had many of the same struggles Wa-Hi students are facing and relate well with our students.

Wa-Hi Intervention Specialist **Javier Hernandez** was in attendance last night and helped provide leadership and adult supervision at the conference.

Wa-Hi teacher reflects on why school needs improvement

“I am in a room that is 28.6’x26.2’ in which there are 36 desks, two teacher work stations, a filing cabinet, television and overhead.

“The room is so small that I can only set the desks in one configuration. I cannot arrange them for cooperative groups or separate them for testing.

“I can’t use half of my whiteboards because I have student desks in front of them. The room only has three outlets, so there are extension cords trailing around most corners.”

Chris Duncan

Wa-Hi English Teacher

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)

Bond 2006 • Information presentations this week

- City of Walla Walla Planning Commission
- Blue Ridge Elementary & HeadStart/ECEAP staff
- Blue Mountain Action Council board
- Sharpstein Superintendent’s Coffee Hour