

February 6 • School Board Meeting Recap

Edison bond passing

Election night count still to close to call



The district is cautiously optimistic following the results of last night's election. The Edison bond issue remains undecided after election night with a **60.98** percent approval. A total of 8,288 votes have been counted as of last night.

The WW County Auditor's Office projects another 400 to 600 ballots remain uncounted. Election trends are in favor of the Edison bond passing as this approval margin stands in most cases.

The Communications Department will provide staff with daily counts as they come in from the auditor's office. Today and tomorrow are critical as most remaining ballots will be counted by then.

Collaboration schedule discussion continues

No decisions to alter schedule made last night

School board members conducted a public work session last night to review all of the findings from an intensive study on the district's Wednesday collaboration schedule.

Collaboration time offers staff a consistent block of time to improve instruction.

The work session provided a forum for school board members to hear all of the information presented on this complicated issue.

After months of study which included parent and staff surveys, discussions with outside district officials and numerous planning meetings, no decision was made last night to alter the current schedule.

Assistant Superintendent **Linda Boggs** said she will organize notes and suggestions from last night's work session and bring this information back to the school board during the February 20 regularly scheduled meeting.

Last night reports from Principals Jim Sporleder (Garrison), Dana Jones (Pioneer), and Darcy Weisner (Wa-Hi) revealed specific challenges for secondary schools if they moved away from a late start schedule. According to reports last night, most of the challenges revolve around student safety, supervision, learning trends, and student program demands.

Boggs said teacher collaboration remains a high priority and is positively impacting learning. She went on to say next year the district will continue to offer dedicated time for teacher collaboration and training.

"The discussion for creating the best schedule to do this work will continue a while longer," Boggs said. "We will continue to work with families to find ways to make whatever schedule is agreed on work for them."

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of January 16, 2007, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel, Increase in Garrison Imprest Fund Account from \$100 to \$300, and Establishment of Pioneer Imprest Fund Account, \$300.

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(*Certificated*) **Jackeline Garanzuay**, Spanish teacher, Wa-Hi
(*Classified*) **Kary Boyer-Phillips**, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi
Kathryn Farrell Guizar, Para-Educator, Paine
Kerrie Talbott, Bus Driver, Transportation
Nathan Ferraro, Food Service Assistant, Green Park

• Resignations/Retirements

(*Certificated*) **Kay Barga**, 2nd Grade teacher, Edison, 16 years
• Kay will continue as a .5 FTE teacher at Edison
Debora Rossi, 2nd Grade teacher, Edison, 2 years
• Debora will continue as a .5 FTE teacher at Edison
Julie Gaffney, English teacher, Wa-Hi, 9 years
(*Classified*) **Linda Knowles**, Bus Driver, Transportation Dept., 1 year

• Out of State Travel

Linda Boggs to attend ASCD Conference in Anaheim, CA (Funding: Assistant Superintendent Travel)
Lori Finn to attend NBEA Conference in New York, NY (Funding: Vocational)
Britt Adkins and **Pat Griffith** to attend School Dude University in Myrtle Beach, SC (Funding: Professional Growth, Technology)
Arlene Moreno to attend Secretarial Workshop in Reno, NV (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant)
Scott Reardon to attend The Right Start in Teaching Economics Institute in Brentwood, TN (Funding: Vocational)
Peggy Tierney to attend West Coast Neuropsych Conference in San Diego, CA (Funding: Special Ed./PGO/ Professional Growth)

Quote of the Week

“The farther backward you can look,
the farther forward you are likely to
see.”

Winston Churchill

Penguin expert named keynote speaker for *Great Explorations in Science and Math*

Local volunteers are planning for the American Association of University Women (AAUW) “*Great Explorations in Science and Math*” event Saturday, March 24 at Whitman College for girls in grades 5 to 8.

Last night longtime event coordinator and former school board member **Jeanne Beirne** reported to school board members on the event.

Beirne said this year’s event will feature **Elizabeth Skewgar** as the keynote speaker. Skewgar -- a doctoral candidate in biology at the University of Washington -- is an expert on penguins. More than 250 girls and 50 volunteers are expected to participate.

Event highlights

- 20 hands on workshops
- Panel discussion (getting girls excited about math and science)
- Use of Whitman College classrooms and labs
- Keynote Speaker - Elizabeth Skewgar (penguin expert)
- 250 participants and 50 local volunteers

Event Facts

Date: Saturday, March 24
Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Whitman College
Registration: Forms will be sent home with girls (grades 5-8) and available at district schools.

School delay or closure information

If school is delayed or closed due to poor weather, notices will be posted on the school district website (www.wwps.org) by 6:30 a.m. and be updated throughout the day as needed.

Announcements are also made on local radio and TV stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. If no announcement is made by 6:30 a.m., you should assume schools are running on time.

If there is a 2-hour delay, there will be no A.M. Preschool (no Preschool on Fridays) and no breakfast services. All schools will start two hours after the normally scheduled start times. Homelink will start at 10 a.m.

Drugs and gangs discussion Monday

The Walla Walla Police Department and County Drug and Gang Task Force are sponsoring a “Drugs and Gangs” discussion Monday, February 12 at 7 p.m. at the Wa-Hi Auditorium.

Those in attendance will learn more about the following: which drugs are prevalent in our area, the paraphernalia involved, manufacturing of meth, what to watch for in children, gang activity in the WW valley, gang signs and symbols, and more.

This event is free and is co-sponsored by the Wa-Hi PTSA and administrative staff.