

District welcomes new board members



New School Board member **Jim Lehmann** is sworn into office last night by Superior Court Judge **Don Schacht**. **Max Carrera** and re-elected board member **Anne Golden** were also officially named to the school board.

Carrera and Lehmann replace retired board members **Toni Rudnick** and **Tim Donaldson**. Golden, who also serves on the board for the National School Board Association, begins her fifth term on the Walla Walla school board.

Board approves Edison value engineer report

School board members last night approved the Edison Elementary Value Engineering Report per the recommendation of project Architect **John Evans**. Evans said the recommendations will trim expenses and help keep the project on budget. He said bids for a contractor will be made public in March with groundbreaking set for June.

December 18 • School Board Meeting Recap

Involvement key to boundary study

Pioneer Middle School Principal **Dana Jones** and District Math Director **Chris Gardea** are leading a boundary review study as the district prepares for the addition of a modernized Edison Elementary.

The new and improved Edison will accommodate up to 200 more students than are in the current Edison boundary, thus prompting a review of the boundaries to shift more students to the district's newest school.

"Boundary changes are needed to take the pressure off schools that have seen increased enrollment since the last review in 1995," Gardea said during a report to school board members. "This is just the start to a long and thoughtful process."

The review process will stress the importance of listening and communicating according to Jones.

"This will be a fair and inclusive process," Jones said. "We will have community forums to share information and listen to community input."

District leaders will also be meeting with city, county and Port of Walla Walla officials to study future growth projections.

"This will be a fair and inclusive process."

Dana Jones, *Boundary Review Co-Chair*

Superintendent **Rich Carter** said there would be "Grandfather options" and plenty of notice to families impacted by boundary changes.

A Boundary Review Committee will be established this winter to begin work on a timeline for final recommendations. Boundary changes are projected to be in place to start the 2009-2010 school year.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meetings of November 20, 2007, Personnel Report, Out of State travel, Carl Perkins Vocational Grant Application, and December Bills and Payroll.
- approved the auction of homes near Edison to allow expansion of the site for the upcoming construction project.
- elected **Anne Golden** to serve another year as school board president and **Mary Jo Geidl** to serve as vice president.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Megan Murray**, Personnel Secretary, District Office

Brianne Peters, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi

Alfredo Avalos, Para-Educator, Lincoln Alternative

• Resignations/Retirements

(Administrative) **Aron Rausch**, Business Manager, District Office, 15 years

(Classified) **Kathryn Austin**, Health Clinician, Blue Ridge, 1.5 years

• Leave of Absences

(Classified) **Jodi Hand**, Para-Educator, Berney, 1.5 years (• Jodi will return to her position after spring break.)

• Out of State Travel

Connie Taylor Randall to attend GLAD Training in Costa Mesa, CA (Funding: Curriculum)

Quote of the Week

“Honesty is the first chapter of the book of wisdom.”

Thomas Jefferson

Walla Walla teachers earn national certificates

Superintendent **Rich Carter** and School Board President **Anne Golden** presented special pins to Walla Walla teachers **Missy Johnson** (Green Park), **Curtis Schafer**, **Casey Monahan** (*not present*) and **Matt Bayley** (Walla Walla High School) for recently receiving certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Deputy Superintendent **Bill Jordan** highlighted requirements for earning this certification which includes authoring a detailed professional portfolio, video taping classroom instruction and passing a challenging assessment to test subject knowledge. These teachers earn a 10-year certificate. The district now has a total of 24 teachers with national teaching certificates.

Jordan also thanked district employees **Gayle See** and **Cindy Nass** who also work for WSU as mentors to national board candidates.

Washington State Statistics

- Total -- Nationally Certified: 1,803 (U.S. Rank: 10th)
- Percentage of Nationally Certified in WA: 3.5% (U.S. Rank: 7th)

Sharpstein students celebrate the holiday season



Sharpstein Elementary students entertained school board members during a special performance at Tuesday's board meeting.

Replacement levy on February ballot

Walla Walla voters will soon be voting on a Replacement School Programs and Operations Levy.

This proposal replaces local funding nearly 68 percent of Walla Walla voters approved in 2004.

Replacement Levy dollars pay for approximately 30 teachers in Walla Walla and 50 support staff. Levy funding ensures Walla Walla's youngest students will continue to have elementary music and physical education teachers.

Students in need of medical attention will still be able to count on trained health clinicians in each school if the measure is approved.

Students visiting school libraries will have teachers with special training in library-media to help support their learning. All these positions are made available through local levy dollars.

Positive school activities like music, sports, drama and FFA are also funded by local levy dollars. In fact, all extracurricular programs exist because of local replacement levy funding. Research is clear students involved in school activities perform better academically.

Please remember to vote. Ballots mail out to voters February 1 and must be postmarked by midnight, February 19.

Gribnau to discuss new children's book

Berney fourth grade teacher **Joe Gribnau** will talk about his recently published book “Rocky Mountain Night Before Christmas” during an evening with the author tonight (Wednesday, Dec. 19) at the district office. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the event beginning at 6:45 p.m.

The event is open to any students, teachers and parents in the district. Guests will learn more about the creative writing process, publishing and how to work with an illustrator.